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ITAR-TASS Carries Press Review for 4 Feb

LD0402064194 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English
0624 GMT 4 Feb 94

["Press Review"—ITAR-TASS headline]

[Text] Moscow February 4 TASS—The results of Russian President Boris Yeltsin's one-day visit to Georgia are one of the leading topics in today's Moscow-based press.

IZVESTIYA quotes the Russian President as saying at a press conference on the resutls of his visit to Tbilisi that "the goals of Russian policy are clear and specific: We should have not only friendly relations with Georgia but also maintain relations of allies."

The newspaper points out that "the principal event during the visit was the signing of a treaty of friendship, goodneighbourliness and cooperation as well as a number of documents on economic relations."

KRASNAYA ZVEZDA (RED STAR) on Boris Yeltsin's visit to Georgia:

In an article headlined "The Tbilisi Treaty: What It Gives to Russia and the Peoples of the Caucasus", the newspaper writes that due to fellows like an unnamed soldier from among the Russian peacekeeping force in South Ossetia, whose picture was taken by the newspaper's correspondent (the photograph is on the newspaper's front page), "Ossetian and Georgian farmers for the first time in years of sanguinary confrontation have got an opportunity to go about their primary business in the land of their forefathers".

Without the Russian soldier-peacemaker, it is impossible to undo the knot of Caucasian contradictions, the newspaper added.

TRUD and RABOCHAYA TRIBUNA point to a great importance of the Russian-Georgian treaty for the two countries.

NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA recalls that the Russian-Georgian agreements signed are subject to ratification by the parliaments. "There will probably be a lot of opponents of the accords" in the top legislatures of both Russia and Georgia," the newspaper writes, pointing out that although Moscow recognises Georgia's territorial integrity, it nevertheless "urges Tbilisi to determine the political status of Abkhazia and South Ossetia".

PRAVDA takes a rather sceptical view of the results of Boris Yeltsin's visit to Georgia. It points out that although Georgia did sign a treaty with Moscow, it is being reported from Sukhumi that "Georgian armed detachments already penetrate Abkhazia's Gali district".

Newspapers feature photographs of the crew of the U.S. space shuttle Discovery, with Russian cosmonaut Sergey Krikalev among them. The shuttle blasted off into space on Thursday.

IZVESTIYA on an instruction issued by the chief of staff of the Russian Government that from now on only a representative of ROSSIISKAYA GAZETA will be allowed to be present at cabinet meetings:

"The closed doors, behind which the government policy will be apparently fashioned from now on, is the most hopeless way to avoid public scrutiny of the work of the cabinet of ministers".

RABOCHAYA TRIBUNA carries a two-page article by academicians Leonid Abalkin, Nikolay Petrakov and Stanislav Shatalin, who offer a new, milder "economic reform concept".

Touching upon Russia's economic and social problems, they write in particular that "the country has found itself before a dangerous threshold. By crossing it, Russia runs the risk of losing forever a chance for revival as a great power".

KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA on the academicians' economic programme.

The newspaper maintains that the programme virtually resembles the one suggested by Russian Liberal Democratic Party leader Vladimir Zhirinovskiy during his election campaign.

"The difference is that while Zhirinovskiy can simply speak about the problems and promise that they would be resolved instantaneously, the government would have to tackle them".

NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA carries an interview with Anatoliy Dolgolaptev, member of the Federation Council, who comes out in favour of changing Russia's economic and geopolitical status in the world, pointing out that this is much more important than the vociferous political tussle at the top which diverts the attention of society.

Press Review for 5 Feb

LD0502094194 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English
0615 GMT 5 Feb 94

["Press Review"—ITAR-TASS headline]

[Text] Moscow February 5 TASS—IZVESTIYA and TRUD frontpage today materials dealing with the economic situation, investments and, in connection with them, the social security of the population. IZVESTIYA writes that the Ministry of Labour summed up some results of the year 1993, describing as accomplishments "the stabilisation of the living standards of Russian citizens, as well as the non- coming of massive unemployment."

"Incomes have grown, but the number of the poor has increased," the newspaper writes, pointing to the fact that last year the incomes of the population went up by nine per cent. "Most probably, this is true only of the part of the population whose income exceed those of the poorest people by 27 times. A major part of the Russian population (77 per cent) had an income lower than the double subsistence wage, which stood at 50,000 roubles in December. One third of them got even less than the subsistence level ... The situation on the labour market resembles a lull before a storm. Officially, unemployment continues to be insignificant and does not exceed one per cent of the workforce. However, the so-called hidden unemployment is growing. According to various estimates, between four and seven million people have a shorter working day or are having unpaid vacations."

"The government is granting easy-term credits to the agrarian sector. The inflation rate will grow in the forthcoming months," TRUD writes, calling attention to the latest government resolutions. "During the current year, 14.1 trillion roubles of direct subsidies will be paid out of the budget. The creation of a federal food reserve will require another 14.5 trillion roubles. Add some other privileges to it, and the total will reach 34.7 trillion. The experience of the past several years shows that, in the long run, about half of easy-term credits are turning into cash money and finding their way to the currency market. There is no doubt about the effect: First of all, the prices of durables will grow, because people buy them in the expectation of further inflation."

ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI began today the publication of a series of articles about the logic and the character of the formation of the executive local authorities. The first article has been contributed by Nikolay Medvedev, head of the department for relations with regions at the administration of the president.

According to Medvedev, the new constitutions says that "state power in the country has two levels: the level of the federal state power and the level of power of subjects of the federation." He recalls that the division of authority accepted in Russia—the presidential and legislative power—inevitably involved some confrontation, because at that time the new constitution did not exist, and "the old principles connected with the work of the old system in the person of Soviets were in effect ... As a result of it, two systems of state power were functioning in the country, whose confrontation was unavoidable. Now, the adoption of the new constitution created a new legal situation. Dual power in one country was eliminated." In his opinion, the main task on the current stage is to reform the second stage of state power, namely "the second link, i.e. state power of subjects of the federation."

NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA comments on Ukraine's decision on nuclear weapons. According to the newspaper, "Ukraine has made one more step towards the world community on the path of nuclear disarmament." Aside from it, the parliament showed by this step that "the reputation of Leonid Kravchuk as the only peacemaker in the ruling elite and the all-out supporter of Ukraine's nuclear-free status was seriously tarnished."

Commenting on the results of President Yeltsin's visit to georgia, SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA points out that leaders of all parliamentary groups of the State Duma sent a letter to him, expressing their "concern over the signing of the Russian-Georgian Treaty of Friendship." "The existence in the draft treaty of the provisions involving the signing in the future of agreements on 'assistance in the purchasing of armaments, military hardware and technologies' may, in our opinion, destabilise the situation," the letter said.

KRASNAYA ZVEZDA carries an article dealing with Russian-American cooperation in space exploration. Thus, according to its information, an expedition of an American astronaut on board the Soyuz spacecraft is planned for 1995. About ten flights of American spacecraft of the shuttle type to the Russian Mir orbital station are scheduled for the period between 1995 and 1997. Then the two countries will begin the construction of an orbital station with an entirely new design (now it is tentatively called Alfa).

Review of 'Itogi,' 'Voskresenye'

LD0702064794 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0625 GMT 7 Feb 94

[Text] Moscow February 7 —Russian President Boris Yeltsin's visit to the yet insecure Georgia, the election of a pro-Russian president in the Crimea, which is an apple of discord between Russia and Ukraine, and the tragic events in Sarajevo last Saturday were in the focus of the Russian independent television's Sunday analytical programme Itogi.

All these major events took place beyond Russia's boundaries but were very closely linked to the Russian domestic political life, Itogi host Yevgeniy Kiselev said.

The bloodiest tragedy of the civil war occurred in Bosnia last week, where an explosion in the market place in Sarajevo killed 68 people and injured nearly 200. According to Kiselev, the event prompts an association with the tragic shot in Sarajevo in 1914, which triggered off the first world war.

The attitude of the world community to the conflict in the former Yugoslavia began to change radically lately, Itogi said. Calls to lift the blockade of Sarajevo, besieged by the Serbs, are becoming increasingly frequent, as well as calls to use armed forces for the purpose. But some experts believe that the use of the military could make the knot of the conflict still tighter. Extremists are seeking to goad politicians into making ill- considered decisions, Kiselev said.

The Russian Foreign Ministry expressed its indignation at the act of terror in Sarajevo, Itogi said. The ministry said in a statement that a prompt and impartial investigation should be conducted immediately and those guilty should be punished exemplarily, regardless of who they are.

Within the Commonwealth of Independent States, the Russian- Georgian summit was undoubtedly the key event, Itogi said. According to the ITV correspondent, who covered Boris Yeltsin's trip to Tbilisi, it was "a strange visit", whose high-sounding declarations left unanswered the key question about Russia's strategy in the Caucasus.

ITV experts and presidential council members Emil Pain and Andrannik Migranyan commented on the visit. The upshot of their comments was summed up by Kiselev as follows: Many specialists view the visit as Yeltsin's desire to extend personal support to Eduard Shevardnadze.

During Yeltsin's visit to Tbilisi, twenty-five documents were signed. Of prime importance was the Treaty of Friendship, Goodneighbourliness and Mutual Assistance, the significance of which was seen in different light by various political parties.

According to Sergey Shakhray, the preservation of the Georgian state's integrity met Russia's strategic interests. But Shakhray pointed out that the flame of the civil war in Georgia could be extinguished only through the recognition of the federal character of Georgia and the granting of more autonomy to Abkhazia, Ajaria and Ossetia.

Russian nationalist leader Vladimir Zhirinovskiy criticised the treaty caustically. "We do not have such a state as Georgia," he said straightforwardly.

Russia's Choice Chairman Yegor Gaydar expressed concern over the transfer of Russian arms to Georgia. He said these weapons could be used to bolster the internal strife.

Communist Party leader Gennadiy Zyuganov said this document "can destabilise the situation in the entire Caucasus".

According to Pavel Felkengauer, an analyst for the newspaper SEVODNYA, "Russia is more and more getting involved in conflicts which it is unable to resolve. Russia's policy in the region is undergoing continuous changes. Russia does not have a well- thought-out military political conceptual framework for its actions in the Caucasus."

The presidential elections in the Crimea, another major event last week, brought to power as the Crimean republic's first president a pro-Russian nationalist Yuriy Meshkov. The electoral campaign on the Crimean peninsula was accompanied by "an unprecedented wave of crime," Kiselev said.

Yuriy Meshkov said in an interview directly after the results of the elections became known, that one of his first steps would be to sign a trade and economic agreement with Russia and to work towards a qualitative improvement of relations with Ukraine.

According to some experts, the results of the elections in the Crimea have raised a question about the preservation of Ukraine's territorial integrity and have posed a threat of disintegration which can provoke a conflict on an unprecedented scale.

Chairman of the Ukrainian Popular Movement Vyacheslav Chernobyl declared that Ukraine "should not have permitted the presidential elections in the Crimea. Former Ukrainian Prime Minister Leonid Kuchma said "neither Moscow nor Kiev has any reason for playing the Crimean card. Because any dispute between Ukraine and Russia over the Crimea would be tantamount to the greatest tragedy".

A public opinion survey has revealed that 58 per cent of those polled reject the possibility of a Russian-Ukainian conflict over the Crimea, Itogi reported. Nonetheless, "The tension is likely to increase in the triangle Moscow-Kiev-Simferopol because of the growing nationalist tendencies in the Crimea, Ukraine and Russia.

Itogi interviewed Stanislav Shushkevich, the Belarusian leader who was sacked by the parliament but said he did not intend to leave the political arena. He said he pinned all his hopes on the new elections. As concerns relations with Russia, he said the parity of prices, above all those of energy resources, was one of the chief aspects. "We are spending 14 per cent of our budget to clean up the effects of the Chernobyl tragedy, while Russia is spending a mere 0.5 per cent. This is not quite fair, if you see what I mean", Shushkevich said.

Itogi reported on Vladimir Zhirinovskiy's trip to the former Yugoslavia, during which he advocated the establishment of the East- European community of all Slav peoples.

Voskresenye reported the celebrations of the 90th birthday of outstanding Russian test pilot Valeriy Chkalov, remembered in Russia and the United States. One of his colleagues, Colonel-General Baydukov recalled their flight across the North Pole to the United States in the thirties.

Russia's chief prosecutor Anatoliy Kazannik appeared on Voskresenye to talk about his recent visit to the Lefortovo prison, where he met Ruslan Khasbulatov and others. "I felt terribly sorry for these people," Kazannik said.

U.S. Decision To Lift Trade Embargo on Vietnam Viewed

SK0402150794 Moscow Radio Moscow in Korean 1200 GMT 4 Feb 94

[Commentary by Krechevisky from "Today's World" program]

[Text] An event took place which can be pointed out as a complete historical event. This is because it will open a new chapter in the relations between Vietnam and the United States, and it reflects the process of a new international situation since the end of the Cold War.

Clinton pointed out that the current decision does not mean complete normalization of relations between the two sides and that there still remains the problem of clarifying the fate of all the missing U.S. soldiers during the Vietnam war. Therefore, a plan is being set up to establish a U.S. liaison office in Hanoi.

According to political observers, the lifting of the trade embargo is nothing but an initial measure in the road for achieving complete normalization between Vietnam and the United States. This process itself shows that a lot of time will still be consumed until diplomatic relations are restored. The important thing, however, is that the lifting of the trade embargo was achieved.

The door for carrying out trade relations has opened. Hanoi is linking the lifting of the trade embargo with the great hope of introducing U.S. capital. According to Vietnamese economists' estimates, this will make it possible to enhance the role of Vietnam in the current international economic-related system which puts into practice important reforms and strengthens market organizations.

The Vietnamese side was successful in changing the position of the Washington administration by consistently overcoming various barriers. For example, the Vietnamese Government carried out much work to clarify the fate of all the missing U.S. soldiers during the Vietnam war and prepared and handed over original documents regarding this matter to the U.S. side.

The U.S. side is willing to conduct future joint searches to finish this task. In a word, Hanoi has shown sincerity, ended the era when bombs and bullets determined the relations between the two countries, and has shown a good intention.

Promoting economic relations and commercial cooperation is a top priority. U.S. businessmen who consider the tremendous potential of the Vietnamese market to be good have expressed great interest in the development of working relations between the United States and Vietnam. They were allowed to make preliminary contacts with their Vietnamese counterparts in December 1992. Ten representative offices opened. The U.S. Treasury Department allowed U.S. companies to participate in economic reforms in Vietnam toward the end of last year. It did so under the condition that international capital would be introduced. All the obstacles that had existed for 30 years have been removed.

Hanoi is not alone in welcoming the lifting of the economic embargo against Vietnam: Moscow, Beijing, and capitals of other countries of the world welcome the lifting of the embargo, saying that this is an example of a sound way of thinking and an affirmative measure for the future stability and prosperity of the Asia-Pacific region.

Commentary Applauds Lifting Embargo

OW0502055694 Moscow Radio Moscow in Mandarin 1300 GMT 4 Feb 94

[Announcer-read commentary by station commentator Kondratyev; from the "Good Evening, China" program]

[Text] The U.S. Senate's vote to lift the trade embargo on Vietnam in late January to a great extent heralded President Clinton's announcement on Thursday [3 February]. Needless to say, the announcement is an important event which will exert a favorable influence not only on U.S.-Vietnamese relations but also on the situation in Indochina as a whole.

In recent years, Vietnam has done a host of work searching for U.S. soldiers missing in action from the Vietnam war. It can be stated with certainty that after the lifting of trade embargo, Hanoi will more actively cooperate with Washington in solving this issue which is rather sensitive to the American people.

Another factor in lifting the trade embargo is economics. U.S. business circles have estimated that their losses in Vietnam resulting from the trade embargo amount to $700-800 million annually. It is true that U.S. companies are allowed to do business in Vietnam, but this is only in partnership with companies of other countries. Such business restrictions can, of course, limit the profits of U.S. businessmen. According to experts' estimates, Vietnam is one of the few Southeast Asian countries with the best potential for economic cooperation. Undoubtedly, Vietnam is also an indispensable springboard for economic cooperation with other countries on the Indochinese peninsula.

The lifting of the trade embargo on Vietnam will also exert a favorable influence on restoring U.S.-Vietnamese diplomatic relations and political contacts. Washington has decided to set up a liaison office in Hanoi, and it can be converted into a diplomatic mission in the future.

What is noteworthy is that the lifting of the embargo on Vietnam has also activated the campaign in the United States to end the trade embargo on its neighbor, Cuba. Many mass organizations and business representatives have taken part in the campaign. U.S. businessmen are dissatisfied over being deprived of the opportunity to invest in Cuba while their competitors from Europe and Latin America are actively exploring markets in Cuba.

As time passes, the lifting of the U.S. trade embargo on Cuba will likely become a more heated issue.

Joint Maneuvers With U.S. in Far East Planned

LD0402183794 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1408 GMT 4 Feb 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Sergey Ostanin]

[Text] Moscow Feb 4—Russia and the United States will conduct joint military exercises in the Far East in July to train troops for operations conducted by peacekeeping forces. The exercises are expected to be held for a week on Russian territory, with the participation of a few units belonging to land troops, ITAR-TASS learned from a well-informed source in the Russian Defense Ministry today.

The possibility of conducting joint military exercises was discussed last year during a working meeting between Russian and U.S. defense Ministers in Bavaria in summer, and during the visit by the Russian defense minister to the United States in autumn. A final agreement on joint exercises was reached at the January U.S.-Russian summit in Moscow.

U.S., Other Firms Decommissioning Russian Chemical Weapons

LD0502095694 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1816 GMT 3 Feb 94

[Text] Lexington, Massachusetts February 3 (NEWSWIRE-TASS)—The U.S. Raytheon engineers and constructors has announced that, as a participant in the German-American consortium established to build enterprises in Russia for the elimination of chemical weapons, it is taking part in working out a conceptual framework for designing and building one such enterprise near Saratov.

Raytheon engineers and constructors is a member of the U.S.- German consortium controlled by Lurgi environmental Participating Organisation Ltd (Lub/Lurgi Umweltbeteiligungs Geselschaft), which was awarded a contract by the Russian government to build a plant for the elimination of chemical weapons.

Other members of the consortium are German firms Uhde GMBH, a branch of Hoechst AG, Entsorgungs und Sanierungstechnik (EST), and a subsidiary of Deutsche Aerospace.

As one of 130 consignees of the Paris convention banning chemical weapons, Russia, which joined it in January 1993, is obliged to eliminate all its materials designed for conducting chemical warfare before the year 2005. Russia has officially admitted that it has 40,000 tonnes of such materials.

The consortium brings together the world's two companies which have experience of operating chemical weapon elimination installations. Raytheon engineers and constructors installed and networked equipment for the single operating plant for the elimination of chemical weapons of the U.S. Army. It is located in the Johnston Atoll in the Pacific Ocean. The plant, operated by the same company, can destroy up to 1,000 tonnes of chemical agents annually.

Lurgi has been running and maintaining a similar plant for the German government in Lower Saxony since it was established in 1982.

The German Foreign Ministry in October 1993 allocated 3.2 million DM (about two million U.S. dollars) to finance the phase of the development of the conceptual framework for the Lub/Saratov project. The working out of the conceptual framework is scheduled to be completed in March 1994.

Raytheon engineers and constructors is one of the major machine- building and construction companies in the world. This is one of the four spheres in which Raytheon (Nyse code rtn) is doing business. It specialises in various technologies, including production of electronic, aircraft and basic electric equipment. The company's capital totals nine billion U.S. dollars.

For more information please contact Raytheon agent Ed Powers at (617) 860-2415.

Ambassador Lukin Interviewed on Foreign Affairs Program

LD0602153794 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1453 GMT 3 Feb 94

[Interview with Vladimir Lukin, chairman of the State Duma Committee for International Affairs and ambassador to the United States, by unidentified correspondent; place and date not given; from the "Russian Diary" foreign affairs program—recorded]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] [Lukin] I believe the country's foreign policy should be based on national interests and not on party or class interests. The blueprint for foreign policy should be based solely on formulating a national idea of foreign policy. The blueprint is taking shape as an understanding of the role of the new Russia in the surrounding world, in neighboring and distant foreign countries.

[Unidentified correspondent] In whose head is it taking shape? In the Foreign Ministry on Smolenskaya Square or in the president's?

[Lukin] Perhaps you have noticed that lately, despite loud shouting and individual deviations, everyone agrees that our foreign policy should be more economical, more concerned with practical objectives, and more oriented toward neighboring foreign countries. It should be more concerned with its neighbors rather than with support for democracy in Haiti, for example, or the Republic of Cote d'Ivoire. To a larger extent it should be directed at helping Russia itself surmount the crisis rather than at general turgid declarations and statements like setting up a world order led by the United Nations or by helping with one's troops in Latin America or God knows where. Such an idea is gradually taking shape. [passage omitted]

[Correspondent] What are the relations between the Duma committee for international affairs and Kozyrev and the Foreign Ministry? How will these relations develop? What is your prediction? And who is responsible for making what decisions?

[Lukin] It has become obvious already now that it is possible to agree on certain issues. For example, the Yugoslavia issue was discussed, and, except for some hasty and not very competent exotic statements, we essentially reached an agreement. We agreed on the statement on Yugoslavia which is very reasonable. Therefore, there is a possibility of reaching agreement.

As for who is responsible for what, under the Russian constitution, the president and the government pursue foreign policy. This is absolutely correct. Parliament should not implement foreign policy. They are implementing foreign policy into life. They are drawing up the main principles and rules of foreign policy. But parliament, whether the executive bodies want it or not, is a very essential and influential factor in formulating and implementing the foreign policy of the country.

[Correspondent] [passage omitted]

[Lukin] [passage omitted] Everything has changed now. Look, how much our relations with China have changed over the last few decades. Undoubtedly, we used to be a long way ahead of China in all respects. And now, except the nuclear field... [sentence unfinished as heard]

And our task now, of course, if we have a task, is to become a bridge linking the great Europe to the great Asia, not a bridge which one uses to walk on, but a connecting pole to combine the best European and Asian features.

Yeltsin Signs Ruling on Russian-U.S. Enterprise Fund

LD0402112994 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 0705 GMT 4 Feb 94

[Text] Russia's president has signed a ruling on measures to assist the activity of the Russian-American Enterprise Fund. The Russian State Property Management Committee has been charged with coordinating work to assist the fund's activity. The committee may call on the Finance Ministry for help.

Robert Talbin, the fund's general director, has said the fund's activity will cover economically advantageous Russian enterprises with up to 2,500 staff, with production of consumer goods being the object of its attention. As initial capital, the fund will receive 340 million dollars from the U.S. Government. In the future, the fund intends to attract contributions by organizations and private persons.

Vice Foreign Minister Panov on DPRK Issue

SK0402064594 Seoul HANGUK ILBO in Korean 4 Feb 94 p 6

["Exclusive interview" with Russian Vice Foreign Minister Aleksandr Panov by HANGUK ILBO Moscow-based correspondent Yi Chang-hun on 3 February]

[Text] [Yi] Reacting to a rumor about the deployment of U.S. Patriot missiles to the ROK, North Korea threatened that it will cancel the withholding of its withdrawal from the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty [NPT]. As a result, the situation on the Korean peninsula is becoming alarming. Do you think that the U.S.-North Korea talks and talks between the International Atomic Energy Agency [IAEA] and North Korea will be successful?

[Panov] Russia does not think that U.S.-North Korea talks and IAEA-North Korea talks have been ruptured. Russia's position is that the talks should continue. The North Korean nuclear issue should be resolved under the IAEA's control for peace and stability on the Korean peninsula. There were some successes, although limited, in U.S.-North Korea talks in the past. However, the talks were recently suspended and many difficult problems are laid on the road toward a third round of talks.

Russia is discussing the North Korean nuclear problem with the United States and China, not to mention the ROK, and there are no remarkable differences in the positions of each nation.

These nations share the view that North Korea should settle nuclear negotiation with the IAEA at an early date and should accept the nuclear inspection.

[Yi] What is your view on the possibility and prospects for denuclearization of the Korean peninsula as discussed during U.S.-Russia summit and talks between Russian and Chinese foreign ministers?

[Panov] The only way toward the resolution of denuclearization of the Korean peninsula at present is to bring about concrete fruition in U.S.-North Korea talks and in IAEA-North Korea talks. Although talks are very difficult and may face a stumbling block, it is important to continue the talks in a manner of dialogue.

[Yi] What is your opinion on the multilateral security cooperation system proposed by the ROK for peace and stability on the Korean peninsula?

[Panov] Russia basically supports this. This plan is a method enabling one to resolve various problems pertaining to security on the Korean peninsula, including the North Korean nuclear issue. The relevant countries are making efforts to achieve this plan.

The ROK established diplomatic relations with Russia and China. What is left as a pending issue is North Korea's normalization of relations with the United States and Japan. If the North Korean nuclear problem is solved and normalization of relations is achieved, an important progress will be registered in efforts to promote security on the Korean peninsula and in the Northeast Asia.

[Yi] Do you think the Kim Il-song-Kim Chong-il hereditary system will proceed smoothly in North Korea?

[Panov] I debated on this issue with relevant American and ROK figures when I served as Russian Ambassador in Seoul. We have drawn a conclusion that it is difficult to predict how the North Korean society will change in the future. Since North Korea is an extremely closed society and flow of information is restricted, analysis and assessment of the practical situation on the progress of the hereditary system are very difficult. However, international society shares the view that stabilization in North Korea's political situation is important.

[Yi] When do you think President Kim Yong-sam will visit Russia and what are the important agendas?

[Panov] Russia is hoping that President Kim will visit within this year, and is preparing for this. We believe that with President Kim's visit as an occasion, the two nations will solve the pending issues including Russia's debt to the ROK, and will further promote cooperation in various domains of relations between the two countries including domains of politics, economy, and culture.

[Yi] What is your opinion on the possibility of expanding economic cooperation between the two countries and on proper means for a solution to Russia's debt to the ROK?

[Panov] The amount of trade between the two countries last year was $1.5 billion—a 40 percent increase from the previous year—and the amount is expected to increase further. We are well aware that because of uneasiness in the political situation in Russia, ROK businessmen from small and medium-size enterprises are reluctant to advance to Russia. However, Russia will be stabilized in the future. For example in cooperative relations between Russia and the ROK, a ROK firm advanced to Russia's Far Eastern district through the introduction of the Russian Embassy in the ROK, and established a joint-venture textile plant there. This firm has earned a great amount of interest by exporting its products to the United States. ROK businessmen, who wish to advance to Russia, may inquire of Russian Embassy in Seoul about method and procedure of advance. Since reshuffle of Russian cabinet members was carried out recently, I cannot tell you precisely at this moment about the method as to how the Russian Government will resolve the issue of its debt to the ROK and of its interest payment. At present, relevant officials within the Russian Government are exchanging their views on measures for solving the problem.

North Korean Envoy Denies Nuclear Weapons Development

LD0402143794 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1359 GMT 4 Feb 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Aleksandr Krylovich]

[Text] Moscow February 4 TASS—The reports of some mass media that Russian scientists participated in creation of nuclear weapons in Pyongyang absolutely contradict the reality, Ambassador of North Korea in Moscow Son Sung-pil told ITAR-TASS on Friday.

North Korea never had a military nuclear programme. The research in atomic energy was of an exclusively peaceful character, he noted.

The ambassador said the former Soviet Union rendered assistance to North Korea in various spheres. In those years, Soviet specialists, including nuclear energy experts, worked in the republic. However, now there are no Russian atomic experts in North Korea.

According to Son Sung-pil, Japanese mass media are initiators of various fabrications on the topic. It is not by accident, because "Japan has all the necessary components for creating nuclear weapons", he said.

"It is quite possible that certain circles of that country are interested that the world community's attention is attracted by the fuss about the alleged threat from North Korea, using it as a ground and excuse to create their own atomic bomb", the ambassador stressed.

Spokesman Favors Diplomacy in Resolving Nuclear Issue

SK0502150394 Moscow Radio Moscow in Korean 1200 GMT 5 Feb 94

[From the "Today's World" program]

[Text] We will talk about the possibility of resolving diplomatically the nuclear issue on the Korean peninsula.

This concerns a plan under which the International Atomic Energy Agency [IAEA] will inspect the DPRK nuclear facilities to confirm whether any attempt is made to produce atomic weapons in those facilities.

DPRK and IAEA representatives have held several rounds of talks on inspections. However, the IAEA says it could not find a solution to this DPRK issue.

Of course, [words indistinct] in connection with nuclear inspections aggravate the situation on the Korean peninsula, and [words indistinct].

Washington warns that unless the DPRK resolves the issue concerning international nuclear inspections by 21 February, it will present this to the UN Security Council for deliberations.

The United States says international economic sanctions [kyongje cheje chochi] can be imposed on the DPRK.

Moscow has different views on resolving the nuclear crisis on the Korean peninsula.

At a news conference, Mikhail Demurin, a Russian Foreign Ministry spokesman [as heard], said:

[Begin Demurin, recording in Russian fading into Korean] The Russian Foreign Ministry thinks diplomatic means to resolve the nuclear issue have not been completely exhausted. Therefore, it is necessary to persistently and continuously try to find solutions to all the problems. [end recording]

The Russian Foreign Ministry spokesman also said: Russia is working in three directions. Russia supports dialogue between the DPRK and the United States, dialogue between the DPRK and the IAEA, and dialogue between the North and South of Korea.

He stressed that it is fully possible to solve the problem of nonproliferation of nuclear weapons on the Korean peninsula by working in these directions.

Russian Ambassador to the ROK Georgiy Kunadze has the same view. He told the YONHAP News Agency that no tactics of pressure must be used against the DPRK and that the DPRK must not be driven to a difficult situation.

We concur with these remarks. It is clear how Pyongyang will react if further pressure is brought on it. This may bring about an opposite result. Therefore, diplomatic efforts will be better than the tactics of ultimatum or pressure in resolving the nuclear issue on the peninsula.

DPRK Envoy Denies Russia Joining in DPRK Nuclear Program

SK0702121894 Moscow Radio Moscow in Korean 1000 GMT 7 Feb 94

[Text] In an interview with a ITAR-TASS reporter on Friday [4 February], the DPRK Ambassador to Russia Son Song-pil pointed out that the allegation that Russian nuclear physics scholars participated in Pyongyang's nuclear arms development is groundless and false.

Stressing that the DPRK has never implemented any military nuclear program, he said that the DPRK has limited research projects to totally peace-oriented nuclear energy development.

The DPRK ambassador pointed out that Japanese press organizations have spread such a false rumor.

Kozyrev Receives Vietnamese Foreign Minister

LD0702085294 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0823 GMT 7 Feb 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Georgiy Shmelev]

[Text] Moscow February 7 TASS—Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev, who is due to fly to Uzbekistan later today, met Vietnamese Foreign Minister Nguyen Manh Cam on Monday morning [7 February] for talks on bilateral Russian-Vietnamese relations and the situation in the Asian-Pacific region.

The Vietnamese minister, who arrived in Moscow on his way back home from a visit to the commonwealth Central Asian republics, told Kozyrev about his impressions from the visit and confirmed his invitation to the Russian minister to visit Vietnam.

"We are progressing fairly well in our relations," Kozyrev said before the talks. "We meet three-four times a year, and working meetings also take place on other levels. In particular, the development of economic cooperation between Russia and Vietnam are being discussed on a wide scale".

Minister Kozyrev called for speeding up joint work on drafting a bilateral treaty between Vietnam and Russia.

Further on Meeting

LD0702104294 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1001 GMT 7 Feb 94

[By ITAR-TASS diplomatic correspondent Georgiy Shmelev]

[Text] Moscow February 7 TASS—"Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev met Vietnamese Foreign Minister Nguyen Manh Cam to discuss preparations for the visit to Russia by the Vietnamese prime minister scheduled approximately at the end of June," Galina Sidorova, a political adviser of the Russian foreign minister, told ITAR-TASS upon completion of the meeting.

Sidorova said that Russo-Vietnamese commission for trade, technical and economic cooperation would meet in session in April, 1994 as part of the preparations for the visit. The commission will discuss a number of other economic agreements, Sidorova said.

She pointed out that Russia's goal is to sign a political document on basic principles of relations between Russia and Vietnam during the visit.

During the talks the Vietnamese foreign minister shared his impressions of the visit to Uzbekistan and Kazakhstan. For his part, the Russian minister told about his recent official visit to China. The sides exchanged opinions on the current situation in the Asian pacific region and problems of cooperation on security in the framework of ASEAN. Special attention at the talks was devoted to the present situation in Bosnia.

Russian, PRC Border Region Leaders Snub Kozyrev

PM0702094594 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 4 Feb 94 p 3

[Konstantin Eggert report: "Provincial Officials Like Chinese Goods. And They Do Not Like Officials from Moscow"]

[Text] Blagoveshchensk, Beijing, Shenzhen, Xi'an, Moscow—"Finally, Russia's interests and statewide discipline must not be forgotten." After the speaker had pronounced these words the audience seemed stunned into hostile silence for a few moments.

The venue: The conference hall at the Amur Oblast administration building in Blagoveshchensk. On the rostrum—Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev. The audience—participants in the conference of representatives of Far East administrations responsible for questions of the development of Russian-Chinese relations. Before the official visit to China the head of the foreign policy department had decided to canvas the opinions of regional leaders on border trade and free economic zones and intended to familiarize himself with the experience of the creation of such zones in the PRC. There is something to discuss here: In [illegible] the volume of border trade reached $2.5 billion [illegible] the trend is upward.

However, the times when the words of government members were greeted with reverence in the provinces have long since gone. Hardly had the minister ended his speech than the heads of administration took the platform to bombard him with a barrage of demands which amounted to a few simple tenets: Because of the disintegration of the USSR and the economic crisis China has become a more advantageous partner for the Russian Far East than other regions of Russia. The introduction of the visa regime for holders of general civilian passports in Russia and the PRC is a severe blow to trade ties: Either give us credits or give us a free hand to trade with the Chinese in the free economic zones which ought to be set up immediately and moreover financed by Moscow or rather by reducing our contributions to the state budget. To summarize: Russia's interests are important but our own are even more important.

The administration heads quite ostentatiously ignored one of Kozyrev's main ideas: The introduction of the visa regime was necessary to halt the process of the uncontroled spread of criminal elements from China into Russian territory. Taking advantage of the ease of passage into the border regions, they then set off on their "travels." According to some statistics there are over 1 million "guests" of this kind in our country.

After the conference, Kozyrev went to visit the free trade zone in the city of Heihe (PRC) on the opposite bank of the River Amur. The friendly embraces of the Chinese leaders with the Blagoveshchensk city fathers, and equally the tone—which sounded almost like an ultimatum—which the hospitable hosts of Heihe took during their conversation with the minister, left no doubts: Ties between the local elites are strengthening and developing regardless of Moscow's wishes.

The things that the party and economic leaders from Heihe said coincided almost word for word with the demands of the heads of administrations at the conference: They want the relaxation of the visa regime and the construction of a bridge across the Amur (the pet theme of Amur Oblast administration head Polivanov). You ought to have seen Kozyrev when he said in measured and firm tones after enduring an almost 40-minute verbal attack from the Chinese: "I hope that the Chinese side will treat with understanding the measures undertaken by the Russian side in the sphere of visa control." And he added significantly: "We are worried by some guests who, I am sure, give you no peace either." There was no reaction.

It is interesting that after visiting two free economic zones in the PRC—at Heihe and Shenzhen in the southern province of Guangdong—the minister came to the conclusion that it is impossible in Russia's conditions to copy the Chinese experience—or indeed any other experience. "We must find our own path taking into account certain elements of foreign practice," he noted.

When speaking in Blagoveshchensk and in China Kozyrev repeatedly called for a switch from primitive "shuttle" trade and elementary barter in the border oblasts to more serious joint projects of a production and investment character. No one has rejected these proposals in public but no one has been in a hurry to develop the idea either. Is it because it is unprofitable?

Among the Russian foreign minister's first ideas to be expressed was that of the active participation of the regions in foreign economic activity. But I think that for him the Far East was a difficult test. The pressure of the local administrative and economic hierarchy defending their corporate interests was noticeable even to outside observers. The Russia of the regions has unfortunately already been transformed into the Russia of regional bosses.

Official Views Territorial Waters 'Dispute' With Japan

LD0402153894 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1151 GMT 4 Feb 94

[Text] Russia has a perfect right not to allow the unauthorized entry into its territorial waters by Japanese ships. Border violations are intolerable, whoever commits them, Aleksandr Panov, Russian deputy foreign minister, told Interfax.

He admitted the existence of a territorial dispute between the two countries and emphasized that Russia did not refuse to discuss it. "If one party says a problem exists, the other cannot say it does not," Panov observed.

In his words, the territorial issue will be one of the items on the agenda of the Russo-Japanese working consultations to be held in Moscow on February 21 and 22 under the joint chairmanship of Hiroshi Fukuda, Panov's counterpart, and himself.

The deputy minister also said that the Russian negotiators would raise the issue of Japanese ships crossing illegally into Russian waters. "We will insist that the Japanese authorities take the necessary steps to prevent this," Panov said.

The meeting will discuss "a wide range of issues" around the wording and signing of a peace treaty. "We do not expect any dramatic or sensational decisions or recommendations. It will be a usual working meeting," the diplomat said.

Panov Believes Russian-Japanese Relations Have Progressed

LD0402201994 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1643 GMT 4 Feb 94

[From the "Diplomatic Panorama" feature]

[Text] Russia has a perfect right not to allow the unauthorized entry into its territorial waters by Japanese ships. Border violations are intolerable, whoever commits them, Aleksandr Panov, Russian Deputy Foreign Minister, told Interfax.

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Commenting on the "Zhirinovskiy factor" Deputy Russian Foreign Minister, Aleksandr Panov, told Interfax that Japan had responded to the statements of the LDP [Liberal Democratic Party] leader "rather calmly."

According to the diplomat, "it was very difficult to determine the true position of Zhirinovskiy." Panov reminded that Zhirinovskiy had stated in his book The Last Breakthrough to the South his preparedness to give the Kuril Islands to Japan if he came to power, however, he failed to even mention the number of the islands which were to be given. Moreover, according to the information received by the Russian Foreign Ministry, the LDP leader stated the same position during conversations with Japanese representatives. However, on the other hand Zhirinovskiy said that he might threaten Japanese with a nuclear bomb, Panov remarked.

On the Japan visit by Director of the foundation Strategy, Gennadiy Burbulis, the deputy Russian foreign minister informed that Burbulis' visit was made so as to participate in the trilateral Japanese-U.S.-Russian conference on security in Tokyo.

Comparing the current situation in Russian-Japanese relations to the one last year, the deputy foreign minister pointed out a "significant move forward." In his opinion, the parties realize that it is necessary to create the appropriate atmosphere in many domains in order to resolve "very complex" issues concerning both states. "Both parties understand this very well. We believe that we have prospects for further development in our relations," Panov concluded.

Foreign Minister on Security System for Asia

MK0402114094 Moscow SEGODNYA in Russian 4 Feb 94 p 3

[Article by Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev in the "Concept" column: "Following an 'Asiatic' Path Toward a Security System in Asia. Russia Has No Irreconcilable Contradictions With the Asian Pacific Rim Countries"—"abridged version of Andrey Kozyrev's statement on 27 January to the Chinese People's Diplomacy Association"]

[Text] The realization of Russia's interests not through confrontation but cooperation with the outside world has allowed us to a very large extent to reopen for ourselves a whole number of Asian states. This refers to China, our great eastern neighbor. After agonizing vacillations from ideologized indiscriminate friendship to just as unwarranted and unrestrained hostility, the two "mainlands" of civilization—Russia and China—have confidently embarked down the path of good-neighborliness and cooperation.

In formulating Russia's foreign policy, we proceed from the strategic character of good-neighborly relations with the Chinese People's Republic. Its main points of departure along the Asian Pacific direction are as follows:

First. The region's importance for the future of Russia is increasing. Primarily because the economic role of the Asian part of our country is growing. Here, some major tasks are to be resolved in building up the production of energy resources, converting military industry enterprises, developing communications, and providing amenities for the cities. The significance of our ties with our Asian neighbors is also increasing. They account for a third of our foreign trade.

Second. The system of interstate relations in the region, just as, incidentally, in the world at large, is and will be not mono- polar, not bipolar, but multipolar. The ideology of regional or global alliances of some countries in the Asia-Pacific Rim against others is becoming history now. The future of the region lies not in power rivalry but in cooperation and interaction between the leading powers.

Russia proceeds from the importance of maintaining stable and balanced relations with all of the Asian Pacific states. This principle underlies our treaty with China, India, the United States of America, and the Republic of Korea and also our links with the Democratic People's Republic of Korea. We are seeking to apply the same principles in building our relations with Japan and the ASEAN member states. In so doing, we believe that in the Asia-Pacific Rim there are no powers or groupings with which we have irreconcilable contradictions. We are striving to make the Commonwealth of Independent States, created jointly with our partners, a major factor of stability in the Eurasian space.

Third. The danger of large military conflicts arising in the region today is the lowest since the times of World War II. The importance of the military factor has diminished noticeably. At the same time there is a considerable potential of tension, not only inherited from the "cold war" but also caused by new problems. This involves the issue of access to the resources of the Pacific Ocean, including its sea bed, and a number of border disputes. The rise of religious and nationalist extremism has dramatically manifested itself in Afghanistan and is threatening Tajikistan. Unless we jointly attend to these problems in Asia, we will run the risk of ending up with a fairly "explosive substance."

Fourth. The economic role of the Asian Pacific Region, which accounts for 60 percent of the world's industrial output, will continue to grow dynamically in the future. In this respect the 21st century will undoubtedly be a "century of the Pacific." The international positions of the Asian states will be primarily conditioned by the extent of their involvement in business relations in this region and their participation in the associations emerging here. We proceed from the assumption that such a buildup of national might does not threaten neighbors, but quite the contrary creates in the Asian Pacific Region conditions for dynamic economic growth necessary to all of us. We have welcomed China's participation in the recent meeting of the Asian Pacific Economic Union member states in Seattle as a major event for the whole of this region. For our part we hope that friendly China will render us assistance in integrating into the main economic associations in our region.

Fifth. In Asia, just as in other regions of the world, economic progress contributes to progress in ensuring fundamental human rights and freedoms. "To respect others like yourself and to treat them as we wish to be treated." This universal law of morality, formulated by Confucius, has become a prototype of universal contemporary human rights. The World Human Rights Conference in October 1993 called for their comprehensive observance.

On the whole, we favor a phased formation of a joint security system, a kind of "security community" open to all. We should move toward such a system taking into account the experience of other regions, for example, Europe, but in our own "Asiatic" way. Here, the following criteria are applicable in particular:

—a phased, possibly multi-speed and multi-optional, approach based on the real readiness of particular states for participation in concrete security structures;

—consideration for the specifics of bilateral ties and the situation inside the sub-regions, and movement from local accords to a diversified regional structure;

—ascent from simple forms of cooperation (exchange of military information, confidence measures, and so forth) to more complex forms (joint situation management measures).

To this end Russia proposes to start creating a regional conflict prevention center and to establish a regional institute for security studies. We also propose to work out principles of the arms trade in the Asian Pacific region. They must be based on the Basic Guidelines worked out by the five permanent UN Security Council members. The application of such principles would impede outside "arms feeding" of current and future conflict situations in the region. On the other hand, it is important to preclude attempts to hamper normal commercial transactions on the arms market under farfetched pretexts. "Double standards" are inadmissible here.

Russia and China can make a major joint contribution to security and cooperation in the Asian Pacific region. I think that all the prerequisites are there for us to enter a new stage of interrelations—the stage of constructive partnership.

The geographical center of Asia is in the town of Kyzyl, on Russian territory. This shows just how absurd it is for Russia to oppose the "western" European to the "eastern" Asian direction in its foreign policy.

Nationalist-Communist Bloc Seen Calling Shots on Yugoslavia

MK0402120094 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 4 Feb 94 p 4

[Report by Sergey Gryzunov, Andrey Baturin, RIA's own correspondents in Belgrade, specially for NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA under the "Balkans" rubric: "Initiative Regained. Zhirinovskiy Was the First To Visit Yugoslavia After the December Elections, Now They Wait for Zyuganov"]

[Text] The Yugoslav problem, or rather approaches to its solution, is becoming not only a weapon of political struggle in high echelons of power in Russia, but also an apple of discord between our country and its allies in the West. But if formerly the Serb card was played only by a part of the former Supreme Soviet in the struggle against the president, now Yeltsin's and Kozyrev's stand on the Balkans is opposed by a mighty State Duma bloc, where the Liberal Democratic Party of Russia [LDPR], the communists, and nonaligned conservatives may become the main sources of trouble.

Vladimir Zhirinovskiy's current visit to Yugoslavia is a case in point. Now they are waiting in Belgrade for Gennadiy Zyuganov, who was invited by the New Communist Movement, a party that garnered 18,000 votes in the latest elections.

The fantastic promises and statements Zhirinovskiy lavishly made in Vukovar and Podgorice, in Bosnia and Slovenia, might be dismissed as hysteria and paranoia. No other representative of the Russian leadership, however, has thought it necessary to come here and explain to ordinary folks by word and deed, just like that, face to face, raising a glass and breaking bread, the essence of Russia's Balkan policy.

At present, the initiative is obviously held by the nationalistic patriots and communists. The democratic reformers still keep the Yugoslav problem on the back burner and keep losing—points, so far; tomorrow, maybe, their heads. The personalities of Zhirinovskiy and Zyuganov elicit mixed feelings both in Moscow and in Belgrade. The fact remains, however, that Zhirinovskiy is the first Russian deputy and prominent figure in Russia to have come to this country after the December elections. If we recall that before the October events in Moscow it was also deputies—Achalov, Pavlov, Isakov, Konstantinov and their ilk—who visited Belgrade, the picture will be complete.

Those who invited Zhirinovskiy expected that his visit would raise the spirits of the Serbs and the Montenegrins. Both—those who are weary of living in trenches for the third year running, and ordinary citizens, whose patience in not limitless in the conditions of sanctions and blockade.

The expectations of the tour's organizers were fulfilled. At a time when the war in Bosnia and Herzegovina is bracing for a new spiral—either a scenario involving force; or the partition of the scorched country between the Croats and the Serbs; or lifting the ban on arms sales to the Muslims; or yet more unexpected options — Zhirinovskiy told Serbs that they are no longer alone. That there is a party that will change Russia's foreign policy, send an army to their rescue, and give them new secret weapons.

Maybe that is precisely what earned the LDPR leader the first order in his career. It happened at a little-publicized dinner in Belgrade, which was organized in the Russian guest's honor by Arkan, a man wanted by police of a number of European countries and by Interpol. A former criminal turned leader of the Serb Unity Party, who has made millions of dollars out of the war, decorated Zhirinovskiy with an order that had formerly been given only to Arkan's own hitmen.

The consequences of the visit are easy to predict. As early as this Saturday Zhirinovskiy promised to hold a rally in Moscow. At the Duma he will do his utmost to crush the already fragile positions of his political opponents under the slogan of saving Orthodox brothers. The international community, threatened with a reemerging idea of carving up the world into blocs and unleashing a new war, which would not necessarily be cold, will change its strategy and tactics with regard to Russia.

The phenomenon of Zhirinovskiy and Zyuganov, the alliance of the nationalistic patriots and communists, is a qualitatively new development in the former Eastern bloc countries. It is neither pure fascism nor communism. As Adam Michnik fittingly put it, it is a mixture of the idea of an ethnically pure state with populist rhetoric and a nostalgia for stability under dictatorship. This trend is currently thriving all across the former Yugoslavia, from Zagreb to Belgrade. That is why as soon as they heard familiar music from Moscow, Vladimir Volfovich's Yugoslav counterparts invited him to reinforce their orchestra.

Kozyrev, Others Comment on Recent UN Moves on Bosnia

LD0602023894

[Editorial Report] Moscow Ostankino Television First Channel Network in Russian at 1800 GMT on 5 February carries the "Novosti" newscast, which includes a video report on the conflict in Bosnia citing reaction to the UN Security Council's decision to approve air strikes in support of UN forces. The video report shows clips from the visit of Vladimir Zhirinovskiy, the leader of the Liberal Democratic Party of Russia, in Serbia; a brief interview with Bosnian Serb leader Radovan Karadzic; and scenes of fighting and Geneva talks. The program also includes short interviews by unidentified correspondents with Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev; Colonel Sergey Voznesenskiy, the commander of a Russian battalion in the UN forces; and Presidential Council member Sergey Karaganov. No indication was given when or where the interviews were recorded.

A correspondent asks Kozyrev what the chances are for a peaceful settlement in Bosnia in the "foreseeable future." Kozyrev replies: "First, there is no other way. Second, foreseeable future is a fairly elastic concept. I think that there is still a chance—perhaps even in the immediate future, perhaps after another round of exchanging blows—the sides will return to Geneva and, in general terms, 95 percent of the plan could be agreed very quickly, and about 5 percent, we believe, could be handed over to international arbitration. This is one of the special features of the Russian initiative on Yugoslavia, that is, for that 5 percent. That's not very much in terms of territory."

Commenting on the possibility of air strikes against Serb positions, Col. Voznesenskiy says: "The selective air strikes planned in the interests of protecting UN forces won't, in general terms, solve the conflict that has arisen in Bosnia-Herzegovina. Moreover, I believe that it will entail stepped up activity by the sides against UN forces, which will entail losses among UN forces and their being taken hostage. And, of course, there will be retaliatory measures, mass strikes that will lead to great human losses, and destruction, and it cannot be ruled out that the conflict that exists in Bosnia-Herzegovina will spread far beyond the borders of the former Yugoslavia."

A correspondent asks Presidential Council member Karaganov: "Where will the Bosnian crisis end and when?" He replies: "I think that it will last another year or two, until the sides exhaust their moral, economic, and other resources and then perhaps the most unpleasant thing that can happen will occur. The former Yugoslavia, and primarily Bosnia, will be divided by force of arms. One of the main postulates of the new European politics over the last few decades will be finally breached, maliciously and irrevocably—the inadmissibility of changing borders by force of arms. Bosnia will be carved up by Croatia and Serbia, and the Muslims will get what they are given—but this will be a deeply unjust solution. To my great regret I can say that the world will reconcile itself with this."

Foreign Ministry Expresses 'Anger' at Sarajevo Attack

LD0602121194 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1149 GMT 6 Feb 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent]

[Text] Moscow, 6 Feb—"We are outraged [my vozmushcheny] at the act of terrorism in Sarajevo that led to the deaths of many citizens of this city, which has suffered so much," says a statement of the Russian Federation Foreign Ministry issued today. The document stresses the need "to carry out a swift and objective investigation and to inform the world public about its findings". "Those guilty of this atrocity, whoever they are, must be severely punished", the Russian Foreign Ministry statement stresses.

As already reported, about 60 people were killed and over 200 injured on Saturday when a mortar shell exploded.

Migranian: Strike on Serbia May Escalate Strife in Russia

LD0702124394 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1143 GMT 7 Feb 94

[Text] Russia must use every tool available to prevent the use of force by NATO in Bosnia, Andranik Migranian, Presidential Council member, told Interfax Monday [7 February]. In the view of this well-known political scientist, all sides must show restraint until a thorough and impartial investigation has been held of all circumstances under which 68 people were killed and nearly 200 injured in a recent blast in Sarajevo.

Migranian believes that the debate of the possibility of air strikes against Bosnian Serbs has contributed to "a nervous atmosphere in which one of the warring parties is tempted into hurrying things up and the other is continuously on the verge of failing to restrain itself." He emphasized: "It is an abnormal situation in which the prey has been determined in advance, which is a source of tension in itself."

"A strike against Serbians is indeed likely to prove to be a strike against Russia," Migranian said. He insisted that the Russian public should not be misled into believing that Vladimir Zhirinovskiy, the LDP [Liberal Democratic Party] leader, was the sole force in the Russian political spectrum that was friendly towards Serbia. He recalled a State Duma resolution, adopted by a huge majority, that rejected placing all the blame for the conflict on one side and called for lifting the sanctions against Serbia.

"Russian diplomacy's non-resistance in the face of NATO's improper intentions and of further dangerous escalation of the Yugoslav crisis can result in a dramatic escalation of the political strife in Russia and harm President Boris Yeltsin's image," Migranian emphasized.

Kozyrev, Christopher Discuss Yugoslavia

LD0702121094 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1100 GMT 7 Feb 94

[From the "Vesti" newscast]

[Text] Last night, Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev held a telephone conversation with the U.S. secretary of state during which the two men discussed the problem of a Bosnian settlement. Galina Sidorova, adviser to the Russian foreign minister, said that air strikes against any of the warring sides in Bosnia-Herzegovina would be justified if they prompted these sides to accept a compromise. However, she feels that in present circumstances, such strikes would only lead to a further brutalization of the conflict.

Grachev, France's Leotard Sign Cooperation Agreements

LD0402115594 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1122 GMT 4 Feb 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Sergey Ostanin]

[Text] Moscow February 4 TASS—Two Russo-French intergovernmental agreements—on defence cooperation and on military-techical cooperation—were signed in the Russian Defence Ministry on Friday. This is the chief result of talks between General of the Army Pavel Grachev, Russian minister of defence, and his French counterpart, Francois Leotard, who is currently in Russia on an official visit.

The defence cooperation agreement provides for exchanges of military delegations and consultations on defence matters. The military-technical cooperation accord envisages joint tackling of defence industry conversion matters, the development of some types of armaments and military hardware, those for the Air Force, in particular, and the coordination of matters concerning arms trade with third countries.

The agreements signed bring Russia and France to a qualitatively new level of relations, the two ministers emphasised during their meeting.

M. Leotard together with Grachev visited the Taman Guards Motorised Rifle Division, took in specimens of arms and combat hardware, and familiarised himself with the living conditions of personnel.

The French guest's trip to the Tula Airborne Division, scheduled for Friday, has been cancelled.

Grachev Briefs Leotard on Serbia

LD0402133594 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1151 GMT 4 Feb 94

[Text] Russia's Defense Minister Pavel Grachev has warned against bombing Serbian positions in Bosnia. Such a strike, in his opinion, could be delivered only if Serbian troops engage the peacekeepers. According to Grachev, Russia's position is that a decision on a bombing raid should only be made by the UN Security Council rather than by the peacekeeping forces' command.

He outlined this position at his meeting with his French counterpart Francois Leotard in Moscow on Friday.

Commenting on the conflict in former Yugoslavia, Grachev said that to secure a cease-fire in Bosnia, Russia would press for "equally restraining" not only the Bosnian Serbs but also the Croatian and Moslem communities.

Explaining his government's position on a settlement in Bosnia, Grachev urged the conflicting sides to call a cease-fire, ensure the passage of humanitarian relief convoys, and guarantee security in the region.

Kozyrev, Leotard Discuss Ties

LD0502102294 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1007 GMT 5 Feb 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Georgiy Shmelev]

[Text] Moscow February 5 TASS—Both Moscow and Paris favour a further development of Russian-French cooperation, specifically, in the military-technical and conversion spheres, Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev and French Defence Minister Francois Leotard, now on a visit here, announced today at their meeting in the Russian Foreign Ministry.

Welcoming the French defence minister, Kozyrev pointed out that Russia and France, the military and the diplomats of the two countries, had traditionally maintained close ties. The Russian Foreign Ministry is maintaining the same relations with the Russian Defence Ministry and Minister Pavel Grachev. "We even agreed with our minister to create 'allied military-diplomatic troops'," Kozyrev joked. This does not mean, however, that Russian imperialism is being revived, he continued and urged not to believe such allegations. "What is being revived is the normal statehood of Russia," Kozyrev stressed.

"Our talks in Moscow are an integral part of the overall efforts, aimed at the development of bilateral relations and cooperation and the revival of the Russian-French alliance in a new setting," he said.

The ministers discussed problems dealing with the strengthening of stability on the European continent, the Bosnian settlement and the staging of peace-keeping operations, including on the territory of the former USSR. The conversation was held in an atmosphere, which reflected the relations of partnership taking shape between Russia and France.

Leotard on Visit

LD0502150194 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1437 GMT 5 Feb 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Sergey Ostanin]

[Text] Moscow February 5 TASS—French Defence Minister Francois Leotard described the results of his first official visit to Russia as "positive."

Speaking at a briefing at Moscow's Balchug Hotel on Saturday [5 February], Leotard said that during his four-day official visit he met with Russian Defence Minister Pavel Grachev, Security Council Secretary Oleg Lobov and other officials to discuss the problems facing Russia, including conflict settlement and peace-keeping operations.

The French defence minister said the main results of the visit was the signing of the Russian-French intergovernmental agreements on defence, military and technical cooperation.

Speaking about the content of these documents, Leotard stressed that they are designed to develop the ideas which had been discussed during the visits to France by First Vice-Prime Minister Oleg Soskovets, First Deputy Defence Minister Andrey Kokoshin and Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev last autumn.

The talks which focused mostly on the conversion of the Russian defence industry resulted in a package of Russian-French agreements on cooperation to dismantle nuclear weapons in Russia and increase the safety of their transportation.

Leotard believes the key to peace lies in friendship and cooperation between France and Russia. He stressed the need to exert every possible effort to strengthen these ties of trust.

According to Leotard, Russia is the country which is seeking a path to democracy and trying to bring its Armed Forces under political control. This corresponds to France's own values, he concluded.

Foreign Minister Kozyrev Comments on Russo-Georgian Treaty

LD0402120694 Tbilisi Radio Tbilisi Network in Russian 0900 GMT 4 Feb 94

[Interview with Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev by unidentified correspondent; place and date not given—recorded]

[Text] [Kozyrev] We view the signing of the [Russo-Georgian] treaty as an incentive for further efforts to regulate the conflicts that are worrying us in Abkhazia and South Ossetia and for securing the human rights of national minorities. The treaty will come into full force only after this is done. The treaty will be ratified but, for the time being, it is important that the treaty serve as an incentive on these issues and not a substitute.

[Correspondent] In Sochi you declared that Russia had legal, historical, and strategic interests in the Transcaucasus. How will these interests reflect on the Abkhaz issue?

[Kozyrev] This issue should be regulated in such a way that would allow Georgian integrity. At the same time, the status of Abkhazia will be defined so that peace is established in Georgia.

[Correspondent] How can that be done?

[Kozyrev] It is an issue for negotiation.

Presidential Adviser Comments

LD0402191194 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 1308 GMT 4 Feb 94

[Excerpts] [Announcer] As is known, the first official visit to Georgia by the president of Russia has aroused a bitter polemic in the mass media. The results of the talks are also being subjected to quite a lot of criticism. In particular, the opponents of this visit consider that the Treaty on Friendship, Good-neighborliness, and Cooperation that has been signed will set in motion a new spiral of escalation of tension in the Caucasus. Let us listen to what Emil Pain, member of the Presidential Council, who was a member of the Russian delegation to Tbilisi, thinks about this:

[Begin Pain recording] I think that the objections that are being put forward against the treaty are groundless, for a number of reasons. In the first place, uncertainty about Russia's attitude to the integrity of Georgia to a considerable extent stimulates the outbreak and escalation of conflicts. Second, it is the third point of the treaty that has aroused the greatest criticism; in accordance with this point Russia pledges to help with the development of Georgia's regular army. But this point is closely linked with a political settlement of the Georgian-Abkhazian and Georgian-Ossetian conflicts. And for the first time the Georgian side at the talks has agreed with the idea that Georgia could resolve its political problems with the autonomies along the path of the federalization of Georgia, that is, on the path by which relations are constructed between the center and the autonomies in the Russian Federation.

Perhaps the most important result of this visit was that the Georgians put their trust in the good-neighborliness and good intentions of Russia toward that country that is now on the verge of catastrophe. [passage omitted]

I think that the suggestion that no treaty should be concluded with Georgia because its relations with Abkhazia and South Ossetia are unresolved is groundless, because similar contradictions exist in virtually all the post-Soviet states. [passage omitted]

Furthermore, it is quite impermissible to impose any particular model of political development on another country that is recognized by world society as independent. We may say that today federalization is one of the best models; it, to the greatest extent, resolves the problems of interrelations between the central authorities and the autonomies, but to directly include in the treaty conditions specifying federalization or, even more so, the granting of independence to some of its components, is impermissible. [passage omitted] [end recording]

[Announcer] The results of the Russian-Georgian summit talks were commented on, specially for Mayak, by Emil Pain, the director of the Ethno-Political Research Center and member of the Presidential Council.

Zhirinovskiy Against Treaty

LD0402203894 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1752 GMT 4 Feb 94

[Text] Vladimir Zhirinovskiy, leader of the Russian Liberal Democratic Party, said his party's group in the

State Duma would unanimously vote against the ratification of the Russian-Georgian Treaty on Friendship, Good-Neighborly Relations and Cooperation signed in Tbilisi on Thursday [3 February].

"Two hundred years ago Georgia became part of Russia forever as Tiflis [Tbilisi] Province and had no right to secede. For us Georgia is a state that does not exist," Zhirinovskiy told Interfax.

He said Georgia should be allowed to exist on its own, "without Russian subsidies, without our assistance." "Let Turkish troops come and show them what Turkish democracy means if they don't want Russian democracy," he said.

Shakhray 'Objects' To Wording

LD0502200894 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1658 GMT 5 Feb 94

[Text] Though finding it necessary to sign a treaty between Russia and Georgia, the Minister for Ethnic and Regional Policies, Sergey Shakhray, objects to the wording of the treaty.

Addressing journalists in Moscow on Saturday, he said: To preserve Georgia's territorial integrity, as a condition for stability in the region, and ensure the status of autonomy for Abkhazia, South Ossetia and Ajaria, would answer to Russia's strategic interests.

"In my view, the ideal model for Georgia would be federal system," Shakhray said. "There is no other way to preserve Georgia's territorial integrity and stop the civil war and ethnic conflicts there."

According to him, there should have been a preliminary condition for signing the bilateral treaty: the understanding that Russia will act as the guarantor of the autonomous status of republics within Georgia, without interfering in Georgia's internal affairs.

Since this has not been stipulated, the treaty may become a pretext for destabilizing the situation even before its ratification, Shakhray said.

Deputy Characterizes Accords

LD0502215894 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1120 GMT 5 Feb 94

[Interview with Oleg Soskovets, Russian first deputy prime minister, by reporter A. Peslyak in Moscow on 5 February—recorded]

[Text] A good two-thirds of the 25 Russian-Georgian documents signed in Tbilisi apply to the economic relations sphere. We asked Oleg Soskovets, the Russian first deputy prime minister, to characterize the results of the agreements and treaties that were signed. [Video shows footage of Yeltsin, Shevardnadze, and others at documents-signing ceremony in Tbilisi. Then Oleg Soskovets is shown seated in his office being interviewed]

[Soskovets] Let us take the agreement on cooperation in the communications field. What does it signify? It signifies that our television programs—the Ostankino and Russian Television programs—will be regularly relayed, received, and shown to Georgia's inhabitants and the whole region. I think that a legal format has simply been given to all those relationships that were developing previously as part of the traditional old relations of partnership. Now they have been endorsed at the level of interstate relations. Now the old laws have a foundation. In principle, Georgia is an independent state and whether it uses our television programs and information sources depends on many things, since in principle we must now work on a commercial basis with this state.

An agreement was signed on international highway communications. This is also a matter purely of production links. They existed traditionally in the former Soviet Union. Now they need to be given a legal format in line with international law. Well, they have now been legalized.

Agreements were signed on trade and economic cooperation with the appropriate appendices. I should like to dwell precisely on this area, which is the most complicated at the present time, as Georgia, since it acquired its independence, has been busy working on its own economic policy and industry reform. At present both of these spheres of activity are in difficulties, especially industry, power- generating, and transport. It is therefore, necessary, in view of Georgia becoming a CIS member, to find approaches that will not unite the two economies but, with them functioning quite independently of each other, will provide opportunities for them to develop various production infrastructures. In this respect the Georgian side has been displaying considerable interest in Russian industrial enterprises and power-generating enterprises. During the negotiating process proposals were made to the Georgian Government that Russian joint-stock companies and joint-stock capital should become involved in Georgia's industrial and oil-refining enterprises. Georgia now possesses fine transport potential in view of its ports, and I think that, given a normal development of events, we shall simply be involved at the economic level and economically in the production activity of these infrastructures. This was a more serious agreement, since here there can be no question of any disinterested links that might weaken Russia's economy, as ways are being sought to create financial clearing relations, since Georgia has its own currency. Let me reiterate that there can be no philanthropic relationship where the Russian enterprises, which are now the real economic subjects in our economic zone, will not receive the funds for the output they supply. Nor, naturally, must our companies, such as Roskontrakt, which are involved in giving substance to these relations in respect of goods, be bankrupted by this cooperation. This is one of the main tasks that we have set ourselves. We explained this to the Georgian side and it was received quite normally, as should be the case in a civilized world.

[Peslyak] What can you say more specifically about power-generating, transport, and other areas of bilateral links?

[Soskovets] Georgia still has a metallurgical industry, which had earlier been transformed into one of the Soviet Union's unified metallurgical complexes. It still has a deposit of manganese ores, without which it is impossible to produce steel. It also still has units for the production of ferrous alloys in Zestafoni, manganese in Chiatura, and there is the iron and steel works at Rustavi. These enterprises, especially the enterprise in Rustavi, were oriented toward the oil industry market. They make extra-strong oil well casing. I think that we must not lose this production capacity, enabling us to have high-quality piping for the oil men that is, at the same time, between 30 and 40 percent cheaper than world prices, and that we must not neglect it. I think that it is essential to avail ourselves of this opportunity and to organize this link. That is one example.

Another example is in the refining and transportation of petroleum products. I must say that the existing potential for using Georgia's territory for commodity pipelines and the transportation of oil and gas—I have in mind exporting—is a very convenient opportunity for us to reduce transportation costs.

As far as Georgia's industry is concerned, I must of course say that all these conflicts, which have been going on over the last few years, have in effect ruined Georgia's economy. The plants are at a standstill and so is the transport system. It is at present winter in Tbilisi and yet there is no heat in the apartments. The provision of electricity for lighting is strictly regulated, and so on and so forth. I think that first and foremost, of course, we all have to do a lot of work to revive all our economic activities.

[Peslyak] You spoke of an agreement on road transportation cooperation, but the railways also account for a considerable proportion of transportation. This concerns Russia's economic interests, and the economic security of Georgia, and indeed its neighbors.

[Soskovets] The head of the Georgian Government's Department of Railways has expressed a willingness to become part of the system of the Russian Federation's Ministry of Railways. This statement was made prior to the visit and our Railways Minister Gennadiy Matveyevich Fadeyev is now studying the issue. The fact is that a mass of Russian goods passes through the territory of Georgia. Therefore, we must not evade the issue, but probably it is not possible at present to see how we can take part in such a way that we do not become a donor and simply say that the Georgian railways will be some department or railway like, for instance, the West Siberian Railway or the Far Eastern Railway. The Georgian Government has proposed that our transport management entity—our Transport Ministry—become involved, for instance, as a shareholder in the development, construction, and extension of the port in the town of Poti. There is a also a proposal that Batumi too, is expanded and conditions created for the modernization of the oil refinery. Another proposal is to build a 150-kilometer section of pipeline to develop the transportation of gas to Turkey.

[Peslyak] The first deputy prime minister remarked with a smile that the Moscow City Government had concluded its own agreements, and soon Muscovites will be becoming acquainted, for instance, with new examples of Georgian wines and brandies.

Negotiator on Troop Presence

LD0402192194 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1411 GMT 4 Feb 94

[Text] The presence of Russian troops in the Transcaucasus after 1995 is suitable for the Russian and Georgian leadership, said the Russian chief negotiator to talks with Georgia, General Aleksandr Galkin, while commenting on the protocol on creating Russian military bases in Georgia. The document was signed in Tbilisi February 3.

According to the protocol, by July 1 it is planned to create three military bases in Vaziani (30 km to the south of Tbilisi), Akhalkalaki, (southern Georgia) and Batumi (Adjaria) on the basis of the Russian military contingent in the Transcaucasus.

The general believes that besides providing security for Russia and the states of the Transcaucasian region, the creation of the bases will help stabilize the situation in the region and protect the Russian-speaking population.

Galkin said that the protocol on creating the bases will be in effect for 10 years. Afterwards the agreement may be extended or annuled if mutually desired.

In February the expert group must take the final decision on maintaing military bases and decide on the quantity of the personnel and military technology. General Galkin who is the chief of the armored troops department, believes that about 100 Russian tanks will be deployed at the three bases.

He has said that the training of officers of the Georgian army in Russian military schools and academies will possibly be made part of the payment for leasing the territory for the military bases.

The general is sure that a similar document will be signed with Armenia, where Moscow intends to create one military base. Preliminary consultations on the issue have already been made. Russia also plans to create one military base in Azerbaijan, but the issue has not been coordinated yet, said Aleksandr Galkin.

Yeltsin Aide Says Georgian Summit Successful

LD0402205894 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1858 GMT 4 Feb 94

[From the "Presidential Bulletin" No. 24 feature]

[Text] The Russian President's foreign policy adviser Dmitriy Ryurikov has described Thursday's [3 February] Russian-Georgian summit as a success. "Russia and Georgia are historically bound to cooperate with each other in that region, they are linked by bonds of long-running friendship and need each other," he told Interfax.

Ryurikov says that the outline agreement will build up their potential to help towards a peaceful solution to the conflicts in Abkhazia and South Ossetia. It is this move that was long awaited both in the Caucasus and Black Sea region as a whole.

The presidential adviser denies any threat from Russia's commitment to help Georgia set up its own army. Nor will this lead to renewed conflicts in Abkhazia or South Ossetia, he says. Militarily, said Ryurikov, Russia will prefer to deal with a disciplined army rather than separate armed units meddling in politics.

In his words, Russia is determined to effectively monitor the process of creating a Georgian army while the Russian military are well aware of how responsible is the job facing them.

Speaking to local intellectuals in Tbilisi on Thursday, Yeltsin said that a balanced, unbiased and well-wishing approach to all sides in the conflicts was Moscow's foreign policy priority. He said any other approach would be perilous both to Russia and other countries. In his words, Russia is prepared to offer whatever help is needed to defuse all conflicts in the region.

On the framework agreement between Moscow and Tbilisi, Yeltsin said its ratification would depend on the extent of Georgia's drive for a negotiated solution to the confrontation in Abkhazia and South Ossetia. He called on Georgian intellectuals to play an important role in the regional peace process.

The Russian leader described the CIS as "a very effective instrument for the peoples' rapprochement" and Georgia's entry into the Commonwealth as "a sensible move".

Government May Allocate 20 Billion Ruble Credit To Georgia

LD0402205494 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1954 GMT 4 Feb 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Oleg Velichko]

[Text] Moscow February 4 TASS—First Deputy Chairman of the Russian Government, Oleg Soskovets, described documents on cooperation signed by Russia and Georgia to be extremely important, saying that the two countries took into account new political realities which were formed after the disintegration of the former Soviet Union and legalised earlier established economic ties.

Addressing a meeting with journalists which was held at the government building on the Krasnopresnenskaya Embankment on Friday [4 February], Soskovets focused on the Russo-Georgian package of trade and economic agreements. Soskovets is deeply convinced that both countries seek to find a common approach to the development of industrial infrastructure.

"Georgian colleagues displayed a particular interest in Russian enterprises of the fuel-and-energy sector," Soskovets said. He pointed out that a number of Russian joint stock societies expressed the readiness to take part in the modernisation of oil processing complexes on the territory of Georgia. However, Soskovets emphasised that "our relations should develop on the basis of parity and mutual advantage".

Soskovets did not rule out a possibility of granting a credit to Georgia worth 20 billion roubles in the near future. He pointed out that the Russian side seeks to connect these funds with the so-called tied credit.

Speaking about the economic situation in Russia, Soskovets, who is in charge of issues of the fuel and energy sector, the military-industrial complex and industry in general, said that the state budget remains one of the most pressing problems today. He pointed out that at present, the Russian Government, on the one hand, has been holding consultations with ministries and state committees on the development of the coordinated system of mutual payments between enterprises, and on the other hand, seeks to conduct a tough policy of allocating credits to different branches of the economy.

Possible Russian Roles in Region Outlined

PM0702121594 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 5 Feb 94 p 2

[Aleksandr Golts article under the "Topic of the Week" rubric: "Caucasian Chalk Circle"]

[Text] Boris Yeltsin's visit to Georgia and the signing of the series of Russian-Georgian documents were undoubtedly the most important event of the week. None of the treaties with the former Union republics has probably elicited such conflicting and sometimes diametrically opposed assessments inside and outside Russia. And these contradictions are based in fact, so to speak—in the supremely equivocal situation in the Caucasus.

In his play "The Caucasian Chalk Circle" Brecht used an ancient legend allegorically to demonstrate the essence of this region's fierce disputes over power and land. A guy over whom two women are fighting is placed in a chalk circle. Each of the women is asked to take him by the hand and pull him to her. Needless to say, the woman who is afraid of hurting the boy gives in. The one who loves him more. Regrettably, this wisdom is beyond the political forces now operating in the Caucasus. In order to possess territory and assert their authority they are ready to inflict suffering on thousands and thousands of people and literally tear this truly beautiful country to bits.

What role should Russia play in the Caucasus, a zone of its vital interests (there is no point spelling that out today)? Moscow cannot be the judge who settles the fierce conflicts over Abkhazia and South Ossetia in accordance with its own ideas of justice. But nor can it simply watch the bloody fighting. Because the Caucasian republics of Russia itself are already directly involved in these conflicts. Because if the coals of these conflicts are allowed to continue smoldering, the fire may break out with renewed vigor if not today then tomorrow and spread to southern areas of Russia.

I think that Russia's main vital interest in this region at the moment is to ensure peace and stability in the Caucasus. And this interest can only be realized by mediating in the settlement process and acting as guarantor of the accords to be secured. This is no easy matter. It is no coincidence that most Western powers are in effect ignoring the calls from Georgia for them to act in a similar way. The obvious failure of Russian mediation last year ahead of the latest outbreak of hostilities culminating in the storming of Sukhumi is convincing evidence that this task cannot be accomplished just like that.

In my view, one of the reasons for this failure was the fact that Moscow was unable to provide the parties to the conflict with real incentives to find a political solution. For Georgia its treaty with Russia might be just such an incentive. But there must be no illusions here. This will only happen if the present phase of our relations is cleansed of starry-eyed idealism and sentimentality. I was so touched by one Tbilisi leader's recent statement to the effect that after a period of alienation the two countries have finally looked one another in the face. No, the truth is that over the last few years Georgia has ostentatiously turned its back on Russia. And it is only now, bogged down by conflict, a crime wave, and total economic collapse, that it has figuratively speaking looked in the mirror. What it saw was so impressive that it had no other option than to try to integrate itself within the CIS and initiate normal dialogue with Moscow. The truth is that the incumbent authorities in Georgia, rent by internal conflict and clashes, were incapable of ensuring even the normal working of the state. They now see the restoration of their ties with Russia as their salvation. And Russia certainly needs Georgia. In order to tackle strategic problems—guarding the CIS external border and safeguarding the Russian troops' secure legal and economic status.

So, Moscow today has every chance of safeguarding its own interests in the region. Especially since they coincide, if not with the politicians' interests then certainly with the interests of the normal people living there. Obviously aid in resolving Georgia's economic and military problems should be conditional upon Tbilisi's taking a constructive approach to the political resolution of the conflicts in Abkhazia and South Ossetia. If that is clear, the development of Russian-Georgian relations will not give rise to suspicion and objections from the other parties to the conflicts. In my view, the realization that the treaty signed in Tbilisi can only be ratified once a political settlement has been secured in Abkhazia and South Ossetia would be a good incentive for Tbilisi to seek a reasonable compromise.

Russia's endeavor to provide Abkhazia and South Ossetia with the kind of status that would safeguard as far as possible the rights and interests of the people living there should act as an incentive for the other parties to the conflicts. And there is a normal civilized means of attaining this objective. State competence can be divided up when a new Georgian Constitution is developed. And in that case representatives of Abkhazia and South Ossetia should be enlisted to work on this constitution unconditionally.

Finally, I cannot help but mention military issues. It is quite natural for Russia to only provide any aid in creating a Georgian army once a real political settlement has been secured. This settlement will necessitate wide-ranging peacekeeping operations. It is clear that Russia will have to bear the full burden here. But all the sides must provide firm guarantees that the agreements will be fulfilled. Moreover, pledges to stop the activity of those military formations which are jeopardizing the security of Russian troops are essential.

Today purely opportunistic talk regarding the danger of the revival of the "Russian empire" can be heard in Georgia and the West. I do not doubt that the rigid formulation of the question of Russia's vital interests in the Caucasus gives them fresh ammunition. However, I do not think that one should pay attention to them now. If they could get by without Russia, they would probably do so. If not, then Moscow should set the terms.

There is obviously an internal aspect to Russia's policy in the Caucasus today. In order for this policy to be effective a unified concept is needed not only for government departments, but also for the government and parliament. This policy needs the backing of Russia's regions. Judging by the adverse reaction to the treaty with Georgia from most State Duma factions and, most importantly, the suspicious reaction from the Federation Council, this has not proved possible to achieve.

So, Russia itself must decide on its Caucasian policy. There is every indication that we have left behind the period of theoretical disputes over whether or not the post-Soviet area is an area of Russia's vital interests. Clearly it is. Today the whole point is what means Russia has at its disposal to safeguard these interests. The Caucasus will be a difficult test of this concept. And Moscow must also find out if it is possible to erase the chalk circle that has been the scene of hatred and mutual suspicion.

Political Issues

Yeltsin Makes Counterintelligence Appointments

LD0402203594 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1752 GMT 4 Feb 94

[Text] Russian President Boris Yeltsin appointed by decree on Friday General-Lieutenants Andrey Bykov, Aleksandr Strelkov and Valeriy Timofeyev as deputies director of the Russian Counter-Intelligence Service, the presidential press service reports.

Lieutenant-Colonel Aleksandr Mikhailov was appointed as the Chief of the Public Relations Center.

New Agency To Oversee Security, Intelligence

MK0502100094 Moscow MOSKOVSKIY KOMSOMOLETS in Russian 5 Feb 94 p 1

[Unattributed report: "New Security-Internal Affairs Ministry To Be Set Up"]

[Text] According to reports received by MOSKOVSKIY KOMSOMOLETS from reliable sources, the presidential administration is preparing yet another reform of special services. This time it will be about setting up, not dissolving, a structure that would take over all state security units and law-enforcement agencies.

It is planned to organize "a security service community" that would include chiefs of the Federal Counterintelligence Service, the Foreign Intelligence Service, the Federal Agency of Government Communications and Information, the Main Security Administration, the presidential security service (all former KGB services), and also the Main Intelligence Administration of the Defense Ministry General Staff. In addition, the community will include chiefs of services to be set up on the basis of the reorganized Internal Affairs Ministry. It is not yet clear who will head the new structure. To all appearances, it will be subordinate directly to the president, and its meetings will be chaired either by the Russian Federation Security Council's secretary or by the president's national security adviser.

Stepashin Interviewed on Security Changes

LD0502194494 St. Petersburg Fifth Channel Television in Russian 1800 GMT 30 Jan 94

[Interview with Sergey Stepashin, first deputy head of the Russian counterintelligence service, by corrrespondent Yevgeniy Kiselev, with introductory remarks by Kiselev and Oleg Lobov, secretary of the Russian Security Council; place and date not given; from the "Itogi" program—recorded]

[Text] [Announcer Yevgeniy Kiselev] A commission for appraising the top-ranking officers of the Federal Counterintelligence Service, led by Oleg Lobov, secretary of the Russian Security Council, started work on 26 January. The commission's task is to decide which of the leading officers of the former security ministry will continue to occupy the top command posts in the new Russian intelligence service. Among the members of the commission are Yuriy Baturin, the president's aide on national security issues; Valeriy Rubanov, deputy chairman of the Security Council, who took an active part in the previous attempt to reorganize the KGB in 1991; and Sergey Kovalev, the chairman of the human rights commission under the Russian president, a prisoner of conscience in the past and a severe critic of security bodies.

[Lobov] I think that such a composition of the commission makes it possible to draft adequate suggestions on the candidates for the top command posts of the counterintelligence service, to be endorsed by the president. Some 200 to 250 people will be appraised.

[Kiselev] Those are senior officers?

[Lobov] Yes, certainly, those to be appointed by a presidential order or decree. I think those who are unsure of their position or who are opposed to reform will leave of their own accord—some of them have already left. The people who stayed are eager to work.

[Kiselev, over video of KGB building in Lubyanka] The notorious building in Lubyanka Square where we went for a comprehensive interview with Sergey Stepashin, first deputy head of the Russian counterintelligence service, has always been a symbol of the VChK, OGPU, NKVD, KGB and finally the former Russian Ministry of Security to the Soviet people. However, we found out to our surprise that the headquarters of the service has recently moved to another building, also in this area.

[Stepashin] You see, the heads of the KGB and later of the Security Ministry have been working in this building since the late 1980s. As for the building you have mentioned, most of it is currently occupied by the directorate for the border troops. Andrey Ivanovich Nikolayev [commander of the border troops] and I have agreed that the central entrance, which is always shown on TV, the one with the state emblem above it, will have a large board saying Border Troops of the Russian Federation. So the people who were so annoyed by this building and this service should feel gratified.

[Kiselev] So, border troops have departed from the Security Ministry. Which parts of the former Security Ministry have then remained within the structure of the federal counterintelligence service?

[Stepashin] The counterintelligence itself has remained. Therefore, its three main operational directorates will be involved purely in counterintelligence work. This will include practical measures [operativnyye meropriyatiya], economic counterintelligence, and the protection of important state installations. In addition to this, our directorate for combatting terrorism will also be active.

[Kiselev] What about the executive apparatus? Have you inherited all of it from the outgoing Security Ministry?

[Stepashin] Naturally. What is more, I do not see anything wrong in it. It stopped being the KGB long ago—you know how many changes it has gone through since 1991. Many people left at that time—it is another question whether they were the worst or the best. So, today, the majority of people who have come to work at the Security Ministry will certainly stay. People who work here must first and foremost be professionals, and they must also believe in the unwritten dictum "to serve our country, our fatherland, and our state"—these are the words of the president.

[Kiselev] Yes, there is an opinion that the strength of all special services is that they are loyal to the existing authorities on the one hand and indifferent to the political orientation of that power on the other.

[Stepashin] This is certainly so.

[Kiselev] But are you sure, Sergey Vadimovich, that the majority of the staff of the federal counterintelligence service, who worked in the Security Ministry in the past and before that in the Soviet KGB, is quite neutral politically and quite indifferent to the political orientation of the country's leadership?

[Stepashin] As individuals, as citizens—of course not. It should not and cannot be like that, especially in such a politicized country as ours. This is natural and I think normal—after all, they are living people. As for carrying out their professional duties, their military duty if you like—because we are all military...

[Kiselev, interrupting] What is your rank, by the way?

[Stepashin] Lieutenant General. As regards that, I think the answer is yes. Moreover, a number of our employees—I will not name them—including two generals for whom I have great respect, simply handed in their resignations after the decree of 21 December saying that they had to leave under the present circumstances. They acted honestly. We are almost halving our numbers, but we are not reducing the numbers of the operational counterintelligence units.

[Kiselev] But as for external surveillance services and services that may tap telephones if necessary, do they remain?

[Stepashin] Well...

[Kiselev, interrupting] I know this is a painful question.

[Stepashin] Painful, why? This is quite a normal question. A counterintelligence service without operational and technical underpinning does not make any sense. So, we are going to keep all these.

[Kiselev] Are you also going to keep your system of agents, as well as recruit new agents?

[Stepashin] Most certainly. Agents form the foundation of the entire work of a special service. It is another matter that recruiting methods have been changed, are changing considerably at the moment. To tell you the truth, in the past, blackmail was sometimes used as a recruitment technique, so that when a person saw he had no other way out—he failed to get promotion at work, could not go abroad, could not obtain a PhD, could not become an academician—I am speaking in general terms... [pauses] Now, today such methods are completely ruled out.

[Kiselev] What about people recruited as agents in the past? I know the word agent was often avoided then, it was not much liked and some called them assistants or some other names...

[Stepashin, interrupting] Yes, the secret apparatus...

[Kiselev, interrupting] The secret apparatus, that is right. And now this argument has been going on for several years. Some say: let us identify those who collaborated with the KGB in the past, while others say this should not be done by any means.

[Stepashin] We shall do all we can to prevent this happening. First of all, I have already told you that all special services in the world employ agents—all of them, regardless of whether the state is democratic, antidemocratic, communist, and so on. This is the first point. The second is that we have no right to break the promises given to those people. We can simply ruin their lives, and those who demand it should think about this if they really consider themselves humane people and defenders of human rights. And the third point is that there are some laws that have not yet been abolished by anyone and that not only protect the secret agents but call to account those who attempt to declassify this secret network. Therefore, I think this should certainly not be done.

[Kiselev] But coming back to your principal function, the counterintelligence service: counterintelligence means first of all, if I understand it correctly, fighting foreign intelligence services, that is, counteracting intelligence activities of other states on the territory of Russia. How active is this work now? It was mentioned at a news conference that foreign secret services had attempted recruiting some of the most high-ranking state and government officials and that such incidents had even been reported personally to the president of Russia. Could you talk about this in more detail?

[Stepashin] Well, I would not like to talk about this in more detail. Such attempts have been made, are being made, and will continue to be made. And you know, it applies not only to our state officials but to rank-and-file citizens as well. They simply are not aware that such recruiting attempts are being made. This is the first point. Second, we are really seriously concerned about a leakage of nuclear, military, and other technologies, which today is quite considerable, and about attempts to recruit our scientists and experts. We have information about many incidents of this kind. These are only a few facts that show that foreign secret services are intensifying their activities in the Russian Federation.

[Kiselev] What about a situation when, for instance, reports appear in the press that the Dutch company GMM financed Zhirinovskiy's electoral campaign? Is it part of the responsibilities of the federal counterintelligence service to verify reports of this type?

[Stepashin] If we look at it from the point of view of our charter and our direct functions, then no. Moreover, you will recall that when President Yeltsin signed the decree of 21 December [on restructuring the Russian security services], he said at a news conference before the New Year that he had abolished political investigations and everything they are based on. But political investigation in its literal meaning is activity of special services directed against opposition parties.

[Kiselev] Right. How can you draw a line between gathering information about organizations that might potentially become extremist or begin to threaten citizens' safety, the security of the state and society, on the one hand, and political investigation on the other?

[Stepashin] This is a very subtle matter. Everything should be known, but our service will not be involved in active measures or operations against opposition parties, movements, and organizations.

[Kiselev] But it will collect information?

[Stepashin] Well, not quite collect information—or perhaps yes, collect information. When this party or organization turns up here, weapons in hand, and takes over power—then it will be too late. We must be aware of this and must prevent this. For this, protective measures must be taken. We must obtain information—including information from the parliament, the government, and the president. So, I agree with you on this point. Incidentally, 10 days before the final election results were published, we conducted our own poll in five regions, and we predicted Zhirinovskiy's victory with 23 percent, falling short of the actual result by just 1 percent.

[Kiselev] Did you make this information known to the higher authorities—the president and the government?

[Stepashin] I do not know if it reached the president, but we did send memos to the leadership with regard to this matter.

[Kiselev] At the moment, there is a lot of talk and surmises about a new upsurge in the activity of the extreme opposition and that there allegedly exists an armed underground opposition movement. They say some people went underground after 3-4 October and that they are armed. How close to reality are these reports?

[Stepashin] What is real is that unless the promise publicly given to the people by the prime minister, the government, and the president to stabilize the political situation, to provide a normal civilized standard of living for our people is fulfilled...[pauses] increasing [opposition] activity is certainly a real fact. As for armed formations and other attempts to discover an enemy in the army or here, the information we have—and I assure you that we do have serious information—indicates that such things and processes do not exist.

[Kiselev] Well, thank you very much, Sergey Vadimirovich, my list of questions seems to be exhausted.

Shakhray Urges Conservative Proclamation

LD0502215094 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1658 GMT 5 Feb 94

[Text] The Party of Russian Unity and Concord (PRUC) [PRES] must proclaim itself as a national conservative party, said its chairman, Sergey Shakhray, the Minister for Ethnic and Regional Policies. In Moscow on Saturday he addressed spokesmen for the party's regional organizations.

According to Shakhray, the government of Viktor Chernomyrdin has to choose between two possibilities: "One is to lean on the Communist and Agrarian factions in the State Duma, and the other to cut off their unacceptable proposals leading to hyperinflation together with the ultra-radical proposals of Russian Choice and lean on the centrist bloc which comprises 110 to 130 State Duma members, including those from the PRUC. [no end quote as received] "The Duma can survive and work stably only in this way," Shakhray said.

According to him, President Boris Yeltsin and Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin are "the stablest figures" in Russian politics today.

According to Shakhray, he is not informed of how "the president's party", whose prompt emergence was predicted by the leader of the president's office, Sergey Filatov, recently, will be formed. "There is only one way to form such a party—to add party functions to executive authorities and prop them up with political mechanism when laws, decrees and instructions fail to be observed," he said.

Shakhray said he is against his party's joining "the president's", "the government's" or any other party. He wants it to preserve its political and organizational independence. He categorically denied the possibility of cooperating with Vladimir Zhirinovskiy in the State Duma "for political, medical, psychological and other reasons".

Zhirinovskiy Names 'Traitors'; Raps Serbia Policy

LD0502194194 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1700 GMT 5 Feb 94

[By correspondent A. Pishchayev; from the "Vesti" newscast]

[Text] [Pishchayev] Vladimir Zhirinovskiy's subtleties knew no bounds today. At a meeting with electors in Moscow, he warned that presidential elections will be held before the end of parliament's two-year term in office, that is, this year.

The LDPR [Liberal Democratic Party of Russia] together, of course, with its leader will come to power.

How can they not win if, as Vladimir Volfovich says, the government has betrayed the interests not only of the Russians but of all Slavs. Who do you think are the most inveterate traitors?

[Video shows Zhirinovskiy addressing meeting] [Begin Zhirinovskiy recording] These are the scoundrels in the current Russian Government: Kozyrev, Chubays, and Shokhin. [end recording]

[Pishchayev] At the same time, he was rude about Russia's Choice, calling the faction Russia's Rejects. Regarding the government in the Kremlin, he remarked that it is pandering to the West which is testing on Serbia a method to destroy Russia. Once it has destroyed the Serbs, Zhirinovskiy said, world imperialism—familiar vocabulary this—wants to settle Muslims on their land and encircle Russia with an Islamic cordon.

The LDPR leader also demanded that the United Nations cancel its sanctions against Serbia. He compared Mitterrand to Hitler, since the French president has proposed, in his words, bomb strikes against the Bosnian Serbs.

Also today, Zhirinovskiy advised the Russian president not to sign a friendship treaty with Georgia but offer it gubernare status within the Russian Federation.

Says Moscow, West 'Conniving' on Serbia

LD0502200694 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1658 GMT 5 Feb 94

[Text] The leader of the Liberal Democratic Party and its faction in the State Duma, Vladimir Zhirinovskiy, predicts that presidential elections in Russia will take place before the two-year mandate of the present parliament expires, and that Russia's political leadership may be changed as early as this year. Addressing a meeting held in support of Serbia in Moscow on Saturday, Zhirinovskiy said that his party "may come to power for good in the current year". Held in Sokolnikiy, the meeting gathered about one thousand people.

Zhirinovskiy accused the Kremlin and the government of conniving with the West which "is testing mechanisms for destroying Russia" in Serbia. According to him, "the third world war waged against the Slavs and the Orthodox Church by the USA, West Germany and the Vatican" is already in progress in Yugoslavia. The West, Zhirinovskiy said, wants to surround Russia with "a green Muslim corridor" by destroying the people of Serbia and populating their land with Muslims, and leave it only one direction for development—"from Moscow to Vologda and Arkhangelsk". Zhirinovskiy demanded that the economic sanctions imposed by the U.N. against Serbia be lifted, and compared the French President, Francois Mitterrand, who, he said, called for bombing the positions of Bosnian Serbs, with Hitler.

Zhirinovskiy condemned Russia's reorganized government for retaining Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev, Deputy Premier Anatoliy Chubays and Economics Minister Aleksandr Shokhin, and declared that they "betrayed not only the Russian people, but also all the Slavs". As for the resignation of Yegor Gaydar and Boris Fedorov, the LDP leader qualified it as an action "designed to deceive the populace", and described the Russian Choice faction as "fallout".

Had he been Russia's president, Zhirinovskiy said, he would not have signed a treaty on friendship, neighborliness and cooperation between Russia and Georgia, but suggested that Georgia should join Russia as one of its provinces, and cut all contacts with Tbilisi, if it refused.

The meeting was addressed by a spokesman for Serbia, who urged the Russian people to save their brethren in Serbia along with the Orthodox Church.

Rejects CIS Interparliamentary Assembly

LD0502151694 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1420 GMT 6 Feb 94

[Text] The leader of the Russian Liberal Democratic Party's faction in the State Duma Vladimir Zhirinovskiy sees no sense in the Russia's participation in the CIS Interparliamentary Assembly. He has voiced this view in an interview with INTERFAX on the eve of a two-day session of that CIS body, opening in St. Petersburg on February 8.

"The Interparliamentary Assembly is an alien body, we have Russian parliament and do not need anything more", the leader of the second largest Duma faction remarked. "The assembly's founder Ruslan Khasbulatov is in the "Lefortovo" jail, that's where the whole assembly belongs, there are vacant cells there", he said.

Zhirinovskiy stressed that, the assembly and other CIS bodies consolidate "the dismemberment of Russia's territory". The LDP leader, as he has repeated over and over again, regards the entire territory of the former Russian Empire, Finland included, as genuinely Russian land.

In his opinion, Russia should stay out of pacts with the states that dropped out of the USSR. In his opinion, these countries should rejoin Russia as provinces, because such an ally for Russia would be, as he put it "a chimera beyond control." "No power can be stable without a single center", Zhirinovskiy claims.

When the Duma discussed on Friday whether to send a delegation to St. Petersburg or not, Zhirinovsky spoke out sharply against the Russian parliament's participation in the CIS body. The lawmaker Vyacheslav Marychev (St. Petersburg), suggested sending there those who "pounded Russian Parliament" in October 1993. "Let Lukin (Yavlinskiy's bloc—IF) and Braginskiy (the "Russia's Choice bloc—IF) go there, for Zyuganov and Rybkin there is nothing to do there", he declared.

During the crisis in Moscow last October, the Duma Speaker Ivan Rybkin and the leader of the Communist Party's faction Gennadiy Zyuganov were inside the White House together with the deputies of the Supreme Soviet, dissolved by Boris Yeltsin's decree.

Despite resistance from the Zhirinovskiy's faction, most lawmakers decided to send a delegation of five Duma members with Rybkin at the head to St. Petersburg.

A delegation of the Federal Assembly, the Upper House of the Federation Council, will be led by its Speaker Vladimir Shumeyko.

Both leaders figure in the list of candidates to the post of Chairman of the CIS Interparliamentary Assembly.

Voters Express Views on Zhirinovskiy

PM0402151194 Moscow TRUD in Russian 4 Feb 94 p 2

[Political scientist Viktor Bondarev article: "Reading TRUD Mailbag. Not So Much 'For' As 'Against'"]

[Text] Journalists, politicians, and scientists have been given various explanations for the "Zhirinovskiy phenomenon." But what do the voters themselves think, how do they account for their choice, and what are they saying in their letters to the newspaper?

Many people believe that "voters voted not for Zhirinovskiy but against the ruling team's inability to cope with reforms" (V. Ogorodnikov, Kemerovo). A. Medyantsev from Yekaterinburg says effectively the same thing: "People only voted for Zhirinovskiy because he highlighted society's sore points to which our leaders are deaf." The question is that many people's living standard has been reduced to the lowest possible level and they have been made the dregs of society. It is a question of specific things like, for instance, losing savings as a result of "shock therapy." Here is one of the most emotional letters: "You made us all beggars. Had I been able to get my hands on Gaydar, I would have gone for the jugular," an elderly woman living in the north, who has lost both her savings and the chance of ever leaving there, writes. Another newspaper reader remembers the "Moskvich, for which I had saved for a long time and almost bought; but that hope has vanished like the mist."

People are equally indignant at the ineffectiveness of the fight against crime: "When the militia shrugs helplessly in response to calls for help and officials do not even deign to answer your complaint, there is no question of whom to vote for...." (L. Shlyapnikova, Perm).

Or: "Total license, bribe-taking, robbery, treachery, racketeering, pavement sex, a low birth rate, high mortality, rising unemployment, the bankruptcy of even profitable enterprises, the bankruptcy of our military-industrial complex, murders, assaults for virtually everyone to see, homeless people picking through garbage heaps—Russian citizens are opposed to all this and protest where they can" (A. Kuznetsova, Irkutsk). Admittedly, the last letter indicates not so much that the person is unhappy but rather that they actively read newspapers.

It is hard to agree with Yekaterinburg resident A. Medyantsev's viewpoint in this connection—he says that the government "is not aware of the sore points" in society. Not at all: Everyone is aware of these sore points, even the illiterates who merely enumerate our socioeconomic ills. The causes of and the means of escaping from the crisis most speedily are another matter.

As I read letters from people lusting for violence against the powers that be, I remembered the events of late last century: There was an epidemic in Russia, and the peasants murdered the doctors because they thought they were to blame for their misfortunes. The situation with our reforms is a similar one although, thank God, reformers are not yet being murdered....

While agreeing (how can you disagree!) in many respects with TRUD readers and sharing their indignation and perplexity at the obvious distortions with the implementation of reforms, I would nonetheless also point out that we have surprisingly short memories. Two years ago we were in a crush waiting in line for vodka and sugar, we were moreover crushed in a very real sense when we tried to exchange ration cards for goods. The stores were completely empty. Mobs blocked streets and boulevards demanding cigarettes. There were shortages of bread, butter, and meat, while cheese no longer seemed to be produced in the country at all. There was not even any milk for young children. If there were rubles, there was nothing to do with them.

The economy went great guns [shla vraznos] between May 1991, when Pavlov and Ryzhkov tried unsuccessfully to "regulate" prices, and this December: Barter and exchange in kind prevailed and oblasts posted militia cordons on their borders to ensure that foodstuffs did not "overflow" from one region to another. Why have we forgotten this?

If anyone brought the economy down, it was the people who directed it by Bolshevik distributive-administrative methods and the hapless reformers of the Gorbachev era.

Needless to say, Gaydar also had "a part to play." But, to be fair, he came along at a time when no one wanted to assume responsibility.... It is not for nothing that his policy is called "shock" policy. It was indeed an attempt at treatment using overly severe means. Did Yegor Gaydar and his "buddies" cure the economy? No. But at least a "fatal outcome" may have been averted for a while.

Admittedly, this was not only therapy, but by no means entirely well-considered surgery, resulting in a drastic drop in the production of many kinds of output and a host of enterprises ending up on the verge of bankruptcy.

People are saying that Gaydar is a monetarist, who follows the recommendation of his U.S. masters blindly, and his policy of "financial stabilization" could have actually destroyed the country. But here are Russia's budget figures for the fourth quarter of 1993: income—15 trillion rubles [R], expenditure—R22 trillion. Thus the state spends R3 for every R2 it receives. But you cannot spend what you do not have. This is the result not only of Gaydar's miscalculations but also of pressure from his enemies and their demands that he spend as much as necessary for "social equilibrium."

Judging from the letters, Zhirinovskiy's promises to restore people's lost savings made a particular impression on many people. The authorities also say from time to time that they will repay their debts—the latest presidential edict promises something of the kind. But something has obviously not been thought through here! In actual fact nothing can simply be accomplished in a fairly rapid timeframe. Before 1992 people had around R300 billion in savings, so should they today be given R300 trillion (since today's R1000 is roughly equivalent to the former ruble)? Russian produced output, so-called GDP, was worth around 100 trillion rubles for the whole of last year.

So, three times as much as the entire country produces in a year has to be repaid? Is that possible now? The answer is obvious. Nevertheless some action is needed. And here the government is to blame for not being inventive enough in finding at least a partial solution to the situation. For instance, all savings could be registered as a state debt, a state loan to be paid off over so many years. As for Zhirinovskiy's proposals regarding switching to repaying lost savings "in noncash form," I suggest that you take a look at any newspaper that carries advertisements. There are plenty of "encashment" offers there. That, is noncash money rapidly becomes cash ,and then what happens to prices?

By voting for Zhirinovskiy people were often protesting against the price that has to be paid for securing a market economy and true democracy. However, you can see something else. There are plenty of people who think Zhirinovskiy is the person who will (maybe) save the country. They were impressed by the LDPR [Liberal Democratic Party of Russia] leader's way of dealing with voters: "On television he spoke not to everyone at once, like certain turncoat Communists, but as it were to everyone individually" (anonymous letter). Another reader is convinced that "If Zhirinovskiy does not betray his election promises and implements a policy in the interests of Russian citizens and Russia, he will move mountains" (V. Bushuyev, Krasnodar Kray).

A number of other (more ironic, shall we say) people express partial solidarity with him: "The Zhirinovskiy option, the 'stick and carrot' option suits us more in these conditions. And when he runs for president, you see, he will poll 90 percent of the vote." (G. Kozharskiy, Rostov Oblast). Thus, some people do not merely reject "shock therapy" but also see the "Zhirinovskiy phenomenon" as an alternative. A bad mistake!...

Incidentally, for some reason no one is paying attention to the name of the party led by Vladimir Volfovich—the "Liberal Democratic Party." If readers are so unhappy with the democrats, why do they trust a "Liberal Democrat"? After all, who are these Liberal Democrats. They are people who presumably are in favor of using Western models for organizing society and the economy. In principle most democrats would most likely subscribe to this party's slogans and postulates (I will not venture to judge the program—is there one?). But "Liberal Democracy" as practiced by Vladimir Volfovich is a strange thing: For some reason there are lots of Communists in his party. The businessman Zavidiya, the LDPR's former chief financier, is a Communist. Deputy Lukava, who as an elder opened the Duma session speaking on behalf of the LDPR faction, is a Communist. And some of this faction's other deputies are, as it were, members of two parties at once. Hasn't Vladimir Volfovich got confused with the name of his party...?

But if Zhirinovskiy is not a Liberal Democrat, what is he then? Let me cite a few quotations from a book: "Troubles for Russia have always come and will always come from the south... We must carry out this operation code-named the *Last Dash to the South*. Our Army will perform this task. This will be a method of ensuring the survival of the nation as a whole; it will be the basis for the renaissance of the Russian Army. New armed forces can be reborn only as a result of a combat operation. But the whole world must believe that, if Russia has to do this, it is fine. You have to proceed from the majority will. It is to the advantage of the majority of mankind for the Muslim world to be carved up [rassechen].... And across this new space to the shore of the Indian Ocean everybody will speak Russian...." These are extracts from Zhirinovskiy's book entitled *Last Dash to the South*. The author says that this is the "juice of my brain."

Some readers are indignant that the views of their elected representative are often described as profascist. "Since the elections people have been insulting not only the LDPR and the Communist Party of the Russian Federation but also those who voted for them. We voters are called sheep, fascists, fools" (A. Khlebova in Volgograd). "You are frightening us once again with the advent of fascism in Russia. Perhaps we have had enough of being frightened. There is no need to pigeonhole Mr. Zhirinovskiy; we have already experienced that...," others say.

Yes, but if you agree with Zhirinovskiy's ideas and support the conquest of Afghanistan and Turkey, what kind of person are you...? Hitler called for eastward expansion, and Vladimir Volfovich is not averse to annexing the south. Admittedly, the people who voted for him stress that he is proposing to do all this by nonviolent means: "He is promising to revive Russia not by force but by other means, making it rich, and the process will happen on its own. Zhirinovskiy believes that we should drive to the Indian Ocean with the minimum use of force, since he believes that the countries involved will join us themselves." (L. Vedrov, Saratov). But how will this happen? Why would other peoples, those Afghans who fought the USSR for instance, suddenly join us voluntarily? Who can believe that? If we are right in our reading of Zhirinovskiy, who is coming up with these fantasies, it is hard to believe that sensible Russian people are willing to give power to that kind of man. But some are....

...In 1917 virtually the same percentage of Russian citizens voted for the Bolsheviks in the Constituent Assembly elections. The civil war with its millions of casualties began soon after.

But Russian citizens say in amazement: "Many democrats seem mere children on television" and "Why are you fussing, guys?" Others say: "The people have decided.... Should you be reproaching the people" (Yu. Vasnetsov, Yekaterinburg). Zhirinovskiy has promised to turn virtually the whole world into an area of combat operations, while the good-humored writers of other letters take political scientists and journalists to task: "Don't you dare insult the people's elected representative." If someone is extremely fond of Zhirinovskiy I suggest that they remember the film "Seventeen Moments of Spring." There are so many smart and in their own way extremely sympathetic national-socialists in it (Mueller and Schellenberg, for instance) who had no intention of doing a lot of fighting—all they intended was a blitzkrieg, without balking at casualties, and then utter peace and prosperity for the German people. Admittedly things did turn out differently.

Most Russian citizens voted against Gaydar's scenario for reforms on 12 December. But what did they vote for? It is indeed necessary to realistically assess the serious miscalculations and to rectify the mistakes of the first phase of reform in Russia, but nonetheless not to recoil from but to stick to the market course (mindful of world experience and Russian conditions and traditions). And not to trust political magicians who promise "easy" routes to prosperity that may cause a great deal of bloodshed.

Poltoranin Fears Possible Release of Rutskoy

LD0402141694 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1151 GMT 4 Feb 94

[Text] Duma member Mikhail Poltoranin ("Russia's Choice faction) is convinced that the time to "create a presidential party has been lost." In his opinion, "people are unlikely to be persuaded to support even Boris Yeltsin," it should have done two years ago. As Poltoranin remarked in an interview with Interfax on Friday, "the last coach of this train has already gone."

Nonetheless, he urged setting up a formidable democratic party, which, as he believes, could comprise not only "Russia's Choice" but also Grigoriy Yavlinskiy's bloc, the Unity and Concord Party, and the "Democratic Russia" movement.

"We need to nominate for the next presidential elections a single candidate capable of rallying the people around him," Poltoranin stressed. However, he declined to name such a nominee and only said that "a few candidates are being considered."

He also voiced fear that during the debate over the president's amnesty decree the leftists would secure the legal release from Lefortovo prison of ex-Vice President Aleksandr Rutskoy and nominate him for the Russian presidency in 1996.

He recalled in this connection that the democrats did not have a stable majority in the Duma and for this reason participants in the October events in Moscow had a chance of getting on the list of persons subject to pardon.

Poltoranin thinks it's possible for Rutskoy to collect enough votes at elections as "Russia loves martyrs."

Proposed Law To Crack Down on 'Dwarf' Parties

MK0502095094 Moscow SEGODNYA in Russian 5 Feb 94 p 2

[Gleb Cherkasov report in the "Lawmaking" column: "The Law on Political Parties Is Still Being Written. Petr Filippov Proposes an Interparty Purge"]

[Text] According to INTERFAX, the Analytical Center on Socioeconomic Policy under the Russian Federation presidential administration has recommended that Boris Yeltsin to come out with a legislative initiative to introduce changes in the current legislation on political parties and elections to the State Duma and the election of the head of state. The aim of the proposed adjustment is to "do away with the hypertrophied multiparty practice."

According to Petr Filippov, head of the analytical center and member of the Presidential Council, the implementation of this project will inhibit the further existence of "dwarf" parties and will also affect the interests of "leaders with disproportionate ambitions who have now become State Duma deputies."

Mr. Filippov believes that in Russia there are no full-fledged political parties at present. "What we are used to calling a party is nothing but small groups of politically engaged citizens, united around one or several personalities. The president's main task, according to Petr Filippov, is to pass through the Federal Assembly draft laws which "would close one-man shows and drive political forces to concentrate within three or four large political parties."

The authors of an analytical memorandum sent to the president deem it expedient to reregister parties before elections to the State Duma. It is proposed to make registration of a political party contingent on its concrete action program in the event that it comes to power. A party may be admitted to elections only if its plans have evoked a certain public response. To this end a party will need to publish its program in the central press as a paid commercial announcement, as well as no less than 10 articles discussing and commenting on it.

The document gives special attention to the problem of party financing, which, in the authors' opinion, cannot be done by legal entities. Analytical center experts propose to extend the right to contribute to party funds exclusively to private individuals. The latter, should the sum exceed a certain amount, will have to present their income return.

Parties that have complied with all the above requirements and entered the political arena will be entitled to state support.

At the same time the Legislative Initiatives Commission under the Russian Federation president has advised SEGODNYA's correspondent that the draft law on political parties does not exist yet and that all discussions about the supposed rights and obligations of political associations are being centered around its concept. At the end of January the commission held public hearings attended by representatives of 23 political parties. Various opinions were expressed while matters of registration and financing evoked particular interest. Work on the draft law, commission officials promised, will be continued, taking into account the wishes of participants in the hearings.

Communists Weigh Options in Removing Government

MK0502121094 Moscow SEGODNYA in Russian 5 Feb 94 p 2

[Dmitriy Kuznets report in the "Communists" column: "The Russian Federation Communist Party Supports Abalkin's Program. The Constitution Will Be Abolished Later On"]

[Text] After the government has been reformed, the parliamentary majority has found itself in a difficult position: T he ambiguous assessments of the new Cabinet of Ministers have played havoc with the Communists' plans. The economic part of the program by the Russian Federation Communist Party and its allies was based on "anti-shock" declarations. Whereas the agrarians' tasks are obvious—get as much money as possible—the communists, fighting against President Yeltsin and "his constitution," have lost their main trump in this struggle—propaganda against Russia's Choice.

Communist Party leader Gennadiy Zyuganov believes, however, that Russia's Choice members are still entrenched in the presidential and government apparatus. By way of illustration of their continued activity he cited the signing of a friendship treaty with Georgia and the abolition of benefits for workers in the country's northern regions.

Mr. Zyuganov is ready to be patient with the "sensible" part of the Cabinet of Ministers if he sees "a sound program for revising the reform course." The Russian Federation Communist Party is ready to approve in general "the initiative by Academicians Abalkin and Petrakov." The communists hope that their program will be a focus "around which all forces in the government and parliament, except Russia's Choice, will rally."

To accomplish their main objective—"the removal of the ruling regime"—the communists are still considering three options. The first is achieving victory in local elections. According to Mr. Zyuganov, regional administrations will try to write regulations on elections to suit themselves and the president will end up controlling the provinces. Here, the communist leader believes, the Duma must step in by adopting a local election law.

The second option—disavowal of the constitution—according to Zyuganov, is too early to discuss. "One must not stir up a storm all at once," he said. The constitution, in his opinion, will be "rejected by life itself."

The third option relates precisely to how such life should be organized. The "extreme measure"—a Russian-wide strike—the communists claim, "will wipe out the regime but also finally kill the economy."

Golushko Announces Arrest of Antistate Spy

LD0402113094 Moscow Radio Moscow in Russian to Tajikistan 1700 GMT 3 Feb 94

[From the "Radio Slavyanka" program of the Russian Defense Ministry]

[Text] General Nikolay Golushko, director of the Federal Counterintelligence Service, has announced that in January a Russian citizen, whose activity had caused serious damage to the state, was arrested. According to prelimiary assessments, the damage caused to the state is on a par with that caused by [Oleg] Penkovskiy.

Media Ban on Cabinet Meetings Revised

LD0402143994 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 1330 GMT 4 Feb 94

[Text] The government has revised its decision to ban media access to sittings of the Russian Council of Ministers except for the ROSSIYASKAYA GAZETA newspaper. Valeriy Trishin, deputy head of the Cabinet's press service, has told INTERFAX that a decision has been adopted to allow representatives of state news agencies, television and radio companies, and ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA to attend sittings as observers. For other press bodies, Trishin said, briefings and news conferences by Cabinet members will be organized.

Split Occurs Within PRAVDA's Staff

LD0502154994 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1343 GMT 5 Feb 94

[Text] "A disgraceful page has been written into the history of the oldest paper in the country," said the editor of PRAVDA, Viktor Linnik.

He told a news conference in Moscow on Friday that the same day part of the newspaper's staff had decided to continue cooperation with the Greek company Stilight Holdings Ltd., fire Linnik and replace him with acting editor Aleksandr Ilyin.

Linnik said the majority of the staff did not recognize the decision, since most of those present at the meeting where it was taken were members of the Greek company.

He said only 76 people of PRAVDA's staff of 233 had attended the meeting. "One may say a split has occurred within our staff," he said.

Linnik said Stilight Holdings insisted that all rights to the newspaper be handed over to PRAVDA International, where the Greek company holds the controlling interest, 55 percent of shares. But the editorial board and most of the staff of PRAVDA wished the controlling interest in the paper to be owned by a Russian corporation, he said.

Linnik said PRAVDA had already started talks to that end with one of the financial groups. As the first step, the PRAVDA staff, late in December, decided to make the paper a public-stock company called the PRAVDA Concern.

He said Stilight Holdings had been dissatisfied with it, appealing to court against the decision of the PRAVDA staff to reregister the paper and organizing Friday's staff meeting.

Potential for Censorship Seen in Media Tribunal

PM0402155594 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 4 Feb 94 p 3

[Leonid Nikitinskiy report: "Court of Appeal for Information Disputes—Censorship or Promoting Free Speech?"]

[Text] Boris Yeltsin has ratified the Statute on the Russian Federation President's Court of Appeal [sudebnaya palata] for Information Disputes. It is likely to meet with a mixed reaction from journalists.

The Court of Appeal set up by the president is the successor to the Information Court of Arbitration that operated during the election campaign. Five of the seven members of the new collegium worked on the Court of Arbitration under the leadership of Doctor of Juridical Sciences Anatoliy Vengerov, who has now been appointed chairman of the Court of Appeal for Information Disputes.

The court should help the president to carry out his constitutional role as guarantor of citizens' rights and freedoms—specifically in the sphere of information and the mass media. It will not examine disputes within the jurisdiction of the general civil courts—in particular, defamation cases.

In accordance with the Statute on the Court of Appeal it must promote the "safeguarding of rights and freedoms in the sphere of the mass media; objectivity and accuracy of reports concerning the public interest; the protection of the moral interests of children and young people in the media; and the observance of the principle of political pluralism in news and sociopolitical television and radio programs." The Court of Appeal will resolve disputes on the allocation of airtime to parliamentary factions.

The statute gives the Court of Appeal the right to "order the rectification of factual errors in media news reports concerning the public interest," to make representations regarding the submission of written warnings to media sponsors and editorial offices and, following such warnings, to make representations for the activities of the media to be judicially wound up. The court has the right to reprimand journalists and to raise the question of instituting proceedings against them if they have violated "generally accepted ethical norms."

This level of jurisdiction and the range of powers available to the Court of Appeal for Information Disputes makes it very similar to an organ of censorship—albeit one after the event rather than before the event. Admittedly, such censorship would be useful, for instance, in the sphere of protecting public morality from chauvinist propaganda, violence, or pornography, but the court's direct dependence on the President's Administration also creates the threat that its censorship powers might be used for political purposes—particularly in light of the vague criteria for "generally accepted ethical norms."

In personal conversation Anatoliy Vengerov categorically dissociated himself from the claims that he is a censor, pointing out that, on the contrary, the Court of Appeal intends primarily to campaign for the extension of journalists' rights and their unswerving observance by officials, and to fight infringements of the media's freedom and, in particular, the way in which journalists' right to obtain socially important information is ignored. The Court of Appeal chairman advocated close cooperation between this state organ and journalists.

From the journalists' standpoint, the fact that the Court of Appeal for Information Disputes is being set up is as yet hard to assess unambiguously. Some of the organ's functions could undoubtedly serve to promote genuine free speech. At the same time, under certain circumstances the Court of Appeal could also pursue a policy of actually restricting free speech and interfering in matters which would be better left to journalists themselves within the framework of the Law on the Press or a general civil process without the importunate help of special state organs. Incidentally, we as yet have no cause to rebuke the Court of Appeal for anything of the kind, and journalists are initially inclined to cooperate with it rather than to be in confrontation with it.

Chemist Mirzayanov's Trial May Be Dismissed

MK0502094094 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 5 Feb 94 p 1

[Unattributed report under the "In Brief" rubric: "'Mirzayanov Case' To Be Dismissed"]

[Text] The trial of chemist Vil Mirzayanov will likely be dismissed in the coming days. According to some information, Yuriy Baturin, the Russian president's national security adviser, has reported in detail to Boris Yeltsin the circumstances of the criminal case against the scientist who had allegedly revealed a state secret about the development in Russia of new types of chemical weapons, and the president "adequately reacted to the prosecution's being unconstitutional." Yuriy Baturin explained that a criminal case under Article 6 of the Criminal Procedure Code may be dismissed in connection with changed circumstances. He regards as such "changed circumstances" the adoption of the new Russian Federation Constitution under which "everyone has the right to freely look for, receive, pass on, produce, and distribute information by any legal means. The list of information constituting a state secret is determined by a federal law." Since no open list of information about state secrets has been published, this circumstance may be cause for dismissing the case against the scientist, something Russian human rights activists and the liberal press insist on.

Yeltsin Opposed to Trial

LD0402151894 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1409 GMT 4 Feb 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Igor Belskiy]

[Text] Moscow, 4 Feb—Chemist Vil Mirzayanov, who is accused of divulging state secrets, began to testify in court today, Mirzayanov's lawyer Aleksandre Asnis told journalists during a break in the court session. He informed journalists and lawyers that the court had dismissed his client's appeal for a mistrial and for the trial to be make public. In the lawyer's words, the court questioned witness Nikishin, after which the defendant "considered it possible for him to answer questions from participants in the trial".

At the same time, ITAR-TASS has learned from sources close to the Russian president that Boris Yeltsin tends to believe that the trial of the scientist is unconstitutional, and he may soon use his influence as guarantor of the Constitution to stop the Mirzayanov trial.

Mirzayanov Not To Appeal for Release

LD0402220794 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1950 GMT 4 Feb 94

[Text] Russian scientist Vil Mirzayanov, charged with divulging a national secret, does not wish to appeal for release from custody, his counsel for the defense said.

The counsel, Aleksandr Asnis, told Interfax on Friday the scientist had even refused to discuss the matter with him.

Asnis said the Moscow City Court had continued questioning Mirzayanov on Friday afternoon. The scientist "agreed to give evidence because he still hoped to make it clear to the judges why he does not consider himself to be guilty," Asnis said.

He said he hoped the interrogation of Mirzayanov and witnesses would persuade the counsel for the prosecution, Leonid Pankratov, to ask for an additional investigation of the case.

Mirzayanov's interrogation will be continued at the next court session at 10:30 on February 7.

The prosecution against Mirzayanov was started in 1992, after the newspaper Moscow News carried his story "Poisoned Policy," which said Russia was creating binary weapons.

Scientist Will Not Reveal Chemical Weapons Secrets

LD0402214394 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1950 GMT 4 Feb 94

[Text] The former senior analyst of one of the secret research institutes, Vladimir Uglyov, told a press conference in Moscow today that he will not inform Russian and foreign journalists of new chemical weapons developed in Russia. Uglyov had announced his attention to reveal this information in his address to Russian President Boris Yeltsin on January 22, if the latter failed to discuss with him issues related to the destruction of chemical weapons.

The chemist explained his decision by the fact that he saw hope that the authorities could hear his voice after his recent meeting with the presidential advisor for national security, Yuriy Baturin. In addition, Uglyov said he feared that revealing the formula and other specific features of the new chemical weapons could enable some countries to launch its uncontrolled production.

Uglyov also said he held hope for a favorable end of "Mirzayanov's fanned case." He said the scientist's intention to reveal the formula was the reason for launching legal proceedings against him.

The press conference was also attended by another former chemist, now disabled Vladimir Petrenko, who became victim of chemical weapons tests conducted in the institute over a decade ago.

Economic Issues

Gerashchenko: State Must Pay Debts

LD0402205294 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1908 GMT 4 Feb 94

[By ITAR-TASS parliamentary correspondent Ivan Novikov for TASS]

[Text] Moscow February 4 TASS—"The state must pay its debts," Viktor Gerashchenko, chairman of Russia's Central Bank, said on Friday, addressing the lower house of the Russian parliament on an item entitled "an hour of the government."

Gerashchenko declared that the outstanding debts of the state to some sectors of the economy, and farmers, in particular, would be paid, although not simultaneously. Gerashchenko said that the total debt amounts to almost eight trillions roubles. Chairman of Russia's Central Bank pointed out that the question of outstanding debts was discussed at a session of the Russian Government on Thursday, adding that the matter would be finalized during next week and afterwards, positively resolved.

Russian lawmakers found it a paradox to hear Gerashchenko say that currently, the system of mutual payments has been working better than before, including with former Soviet republics. Gerashchenko pointed out that there is an active balance of payments between Russia and CIS countries. "We are pursuing a policy of restricting credits issued to CIS countries from the state budget," Gerashchenko said.

Asked where Russia will find money to grant a credit to Georgia, Gerashchenko replied that "our leaders can prove to the State Duma that such a credit is necessary."

Commenting on the current financial situation in Russia, Gerashchenko said that "we have been going up the spiral of inflation all the time." He admitted that the Central Bank spent over a million dollars in January alone to stabilise the rouble exchange rate.

Gerashchenko pointed out that according to estimates made by the Central Bank, last year, the budget deficit was within 10.5 per cent of the gross national product. But in his opinion, "no tragedy has occurred."

Gerashchenko declared that currently, "we have been constantly experimenting which might trigger inflation to a certain degree and perhaps, we shall not attain the reduction of the budget deficit by 5 per cent of the size of the gross national product as we would like to do."

Government To Repay Agricultural Debts

MK0402124094 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 4 Feb 94 p 1

[Ivan Rodin report under the "State Duma" rubric: "Agrarians Will Receive Money. Lower Chamber Expects Dubinin and Gerashchenko Today"]

[Excerpts] Acting Finance Minister Sergey Dubinin and Central Bank Chairman Viktor Gerashchenko have been invited to address the State Duma today. This was confirmed yesterday by deputies from the Agrarian Party, who held a press conference "On the performance of the agro-industrial sector in 1994." [passage omitted]

As the press conference was under way, the government's presidium was holding a meeting at the White House to consider a decree of the same name. Gennadiy Kulik, deputy chairman of the State Duma's budget committee and former agricultural minister of the USSR and the RSFSR, who had just returned from the White House, told his colleagues and the press some details about the meeting.

Two drafts—from the Agricultural Ministry and the Economy Ministry—were submitted to the government for consideration. According to Mr. Kulik, although there are significant differences between the drafts, it was nonetheless decided to merge them into one document to be agreed upon. Mr. Kulik said that the Agricultural Ministry's draft required the state to buy 100 percent of grain, oil-bearing crops, sugar beets, meat, milk, and wool to be produced in 1994. The government agreed in principle, but an argument broke out about the expected amounts of the produce.

Viktor Gerashchenko did not agree, however, with the suggestion that the repayment of government debts to the agro-industrial sector should be dragged out as long as possible, and said that they would be repaid in the first quarter of this year, Mr. Kulik said. Agricultural enterprises will get a total of 1.3 trillion rubles; although they insisted that the sum be indexed, however, they did not manage to push the idea through. Nor did they receive the desired credits to the tune of 8.5 trillion rubles in the first six months (including 4.2 trillion to pay for fuel) to ensure the spring fieldwork and to carry the livestock through the winter period. The agro-industrial sector will get only 1.2 trillion in credits in the first quarter.

So, Viktor Chernomyrdin has so far fallen short of satisfying agricultural appetites in full, although the "agrarians" trust him and think that "the castlings in the government have made it possible to forgo the question of no-confidence in it." This was also stated at yesterday's press conference.

Cabinet Earmarks Subsidies to Agriculture

MK0402115094 Moscow SEGODNYA in Russian 4 Feb 94 p 1

[Yelena Kolokoltseva report: "The Government Has Approved a Lobbying Allowance. The Agro-Industrial Complex Will Cost Russia 10 Times the Food Import"]

[Text] In yesterday's session the Council of Ministers Presidium approved the Russian Federation Government resolution "On the Functioning of the Russian Federation Agro-industrial Complex in 1994" and issued orders for it to be finalized within 10 days. The draft was prepared by Zaveryukha's department with the participation of representatives from the Foreign Economic Relations Ministry, the Russian State Fishing Committee, the Central Bank, the Fuel and Energy Ministry, and was then approved by the Economy Ministry practically without comment. The sole department that strongly criticized this "lobby allowance" was the Finance Ministry. This must be why two days before the session Zaveryukha sent a letter to the presidium accusing the Finance Ministry of sabotaging the program for revitalizing the agricultural sector, and yesterday he stated: "Russia must feed its peasants."

In addition to the measures of state support for the agro-industrial complex (an investment credit of 1.3 trillion rubles and 2.8 trillion rubles of centralized capital inputs for the first quarter of 1994), it was proposed to preserve subsidies for centralized food imports and establish subsidy coefficients for imported technological equipment. Furthermore it is envisioned to compensate 30 percent of expenditures for fertilizer purchases and to impose restrictive custom duties on the import of "white sugar, wool, flax and hemp fibers, and industrially harvested fur and pelt materials."

According to Economy Ministry estimates, 24 additional measures to support the agricultural sector will call for an additional 14 trillion rubles of budget funds. The aggregate cost of the program for the state budget, however, will amount to 34 trillion rubles ($22 billion at the current exchange rate) which exceeds the volume of agricultural imports 10 fold. "It must be remembered that in Russian agriculture, the sowing season is immediately followed by harvesting," Sergey Vasilyev, head of the Working Center for Economic Reforms, which has not yet been dissolved, said at a press conference yesterday.

Industrialists Warn of 'Imminent Catastrophe'

LD0702151094 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1219 GMT 7 Feb 94

[Text] The Russian Union of Industrialists and Entrepreneurs urged the government to take resolute steps to prevent "an imminent catastrophe" caused by the further aggravation of the economic crisis. Many plants and factories in the country have stopped working, and in the next few weeks this process may acquire the nature of an avalanche, the union declared in a statement published on Monday.

Under the circumstances, the union considers it necessary to take a range of urgent measures designed to overcome the crisis, such as work out a mechanism for regulating prices and incomes. According to the authors of the statement, the prices of many goods, above all food products, are already above the world level.

In addition, the union calls for taking steps aimed at decreasing the volume of free funds handled by commercial banks, and at limiting the activity of commercial structures at currency exchanges. Its statement says it is necessary to announce increases in the cost of basic types of fuel two or three months in advance in order to prevent continuing uncontrolled price hikes on essential types of raw materials.

According to the statement, the clamor about "the only slightly reshuffled government" poses an attempt by some political forces "to lay the blame for economic blunders on the president and prime minister." "The record fall in production—by over 25% in the first month of the current year, and the runaway price hikes—in January prices rose by 20%, are a consequence of the shock therapy policy adopted by the monetarist reformers in January of 1992," the statement says.

Report Attacks Results of Market Reforms

LD0402192294 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1555 GMT 4 Feb 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Igor Ivantsov]

[Text] Moscow February 4 TASS—The market reforms of the past two years have not yielded the expected results. This was not due to some individual mistakes, but due to the incorrectly chosen course of switching over to a market economy by "shock" and monetaristic methods. This conclusion is contained in a report, drawn up by the Economics Department of the Russian Academy of Sciences and the international "Reform" fund. The report analyses the current situation in the Russian economy and outlines new approaches to reforms.

Continuation of the chosen course, the authors of the document claim, will produce "disastrous consequences" and drive the country into an impasse. The Russian economy is in a critical state already today. The production slump has reached 40 per cent, and the total volume of investments has dropped by 150 per cent. Moreover, the production slump is of a universal character and has affected the most technologically advanced sectors of economy. Most alarming is the fact that depreciation of fixed production assets has reached 60 per cent, which is the limit, after which the country's production potential is bound to collapse. "In view of the fact that the key role in the ongoing inflationary processes is played by the inflation of outlays," the authors of the report claim, "it is impossible to combat it by purely monetaristic methods, because restrictions on the amount of money in circulation and reduction of the budget deficit will obstruct rational structural changes and aggravate the production slump."

Proceeding from the results of a complex analysis of practically all the spheres of the national economy, the authors of the report have drawn the conclusion that it is not only necessary to correct the course, but to work out new approaches to the strategy and tactics of the socio-economic reforms in Russia. In their opinion, stabilisation measures, like the ones used by many countries in such situations, are most expedient in this case, too. This must include some short-term measure to effect state control over prices for raw materials and railway carriages. The state must also pay its debt to individual sectors of the national economy and to other spheres of economy. The correlation of prices and the level of wages must then be normalised by means of a conciliatory process.

According to figures furnished by the Economic forecasting Institute of the Russian Academy of Sciences and used in the report, the general rate of inflation could be lowered by 8-10 per cent a month as a result of such measures. Prices could be "adjusted" to fixed correlations in most sectors within two or three months. Parallel with this, it appears expedient to introduce progressive taxes for excessively high profitability, to toughen sanctions for tax evasion, to reassess the fixed assets and to grant tax exemptions to the part of the profits used for accumulating fixed assets. As a result of all these measures the level of inflation may be lowered to 3-5 per cent a month within a period of four or five months. The proposed solution, the authors of the report believe, is one of the possible ways to resolve the problem which, if ignored, may lead to serious economic consequences.

Military & Space Issues

Defense Minister Says Army of 2 Million Needed

LD0402154594 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1423 GMT 4 Feb 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Mikhail Shevtsov]

[Text] Moscow, 4 Jan—"A Russian Army capable of carrying out all of the tasks allotted to it should number 2-2.1 million," the Russian defense minister stated at a meeting in Georgia with officers from the 405th Motorized Infantry Regiment stationed in Vaziani. In his opinion, numbers for the Armed Forces as set out in the defense law—1.5 million by 1995—are insufficient to carry out the tasks of guaranteeing the state's security.

Pavel Grachev confirmed the military department's policy of recruitment on contract. Contract soldiers, the minister said, will be recruited mainly for the fighting units and not for the administrative or quartermasters' services. In 1993, 93,000 contract soldiers were recruited in 1993. The plan is to recruit 150,000-160,000 contract soldiers in 1994.

The defense minister also spoke of the proposed reorganization of educational work in the Army. Its focus will move from the center to the level of companies, battalions, and regiments. There are specific proposals for regiments to have a deputy commander responsible for educational work, a lawyer, psychologist, and a sociologist.

Army's Control of Weapons Criticized

LD0402161694 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1357 GMT 4 Feb 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Vladimir Gondusov]

[Text] Moscow February 4 TASS—A captain in the Russian Army is one of two men, detained by detectives from the Khabarovsk Territorial Internal Affairs Department on the suspicion that they stole 75 guns. Several of the weapons were discovered with the suspects, while the rest have yet to be found, according to the Public Communications Center of the Russian Ministry of Internal Affairs.

Specialists in the Interior Ministry still consider Army units a stable "source of supply" of weapons to criminal elements. Military personnel fairly often make off with guns and ammunition in order to earn some extra money. In 1993, 6430 weapons were illegally "transferred" into criminal hands, twice as much as the corresponding 1992 figure. Every third stolen weapon is from the Army.

Deputy Chief of the law and order department's investigative section Leonid Turchin says he is "astonished" by the fact that unit and regiment commanders cannot ensure the safekeeping of weapons and explosives, even when they are locked up in depots, located in military bases and surrounded by high fences and barbed wire.

Military Communications Satellite Launched

LD0502130594 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0955 GMT 5 Feb 94

[By ITAR-TASS freelance correspondent Semen Ivanov]

[Text] Moscow, 5 Feb—At 1146 Moscow time today, Russia's military space forces launched a Raduga-1 communications satellite from Baykonur cosmodrome, using a Proton heavy three-stage carrier rocket with a DM 2 [?dvigatel marshevyy, sustainer engine] unit. At the military space forces press center the ITAR-TASS correspondent learned that the launch was successful. The satellite is being guided by the main center for testing and guidance of spacecraft (Golitsino-2), which is a part of the military space force structure.

Parameters for Launch Reported

LD0702090894 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0849 GMT 7 Feb 94

[Text] Moscow February 7 TASS—A communications satellite, Raduga-1, was launched by a proton booster from the Baykonur cosmodrome on February 5, 1994.

The satellite carries multichannel relay equipment to boost telephone and telegraph radio communications over the territory of the Russian Federation.

The satellite was put into a near-stationary orbit with the following parameters:

distance from the Earth's surface—36,513 kilometers,
revolution period—24 hours 33 minutes,
orbital inclination—1.4 degrees.
Installed equipment operates smoothly.

The command and measurement complex exercises contol over the satellite. Work with the satellite will be conducted in compliance with a set programme.

Federal Assembly

Yeltsin Suspends Decision on Federal Assembly Site

LD0402145594 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1440 GMT 4 Feb 94

[Text] Moscow, 4 Feb—Russian President Boris Yeltsin has decreed to suspend a decision of the Russian Government on the Construction of a set of buildings to house the Federal Assembly, the presidential press service reported today.

Duma Approves Resolution on Structure, Personnel

LD0402134294 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1202 GMT 4 Feb 94

[By ITAR-TASS parliamentary correspondent Ivan Novikov]

[Text] Moscow February 4 TASS—On Friday, the Russian State Duma adopted a resolution, sponsored by Duma chairman Ivan Rybkin, determining the chamber's structure and staff.

The Duma's activity will be supported by 677 full-time staffers, not including technicians. In addition, faction and deputy group apparatuses are to be manned by 132 people, along with the 386 support personnel approved for the Duma's committees and commissions.

The Duma's apparatus is to have the status of a legal entity. It was suggested that the Duma chairman continue working on the formation of the apparatus in accordance with the chamber's structure.

It was resolved that workers in the parliament's lower chamber will be considered equal to comparable workers in the apparatus of the Russian Federation Government in terms of salary, and social, material, and medical support. Finally, the Duma resolved that its leadership shall request the government to take the appropriate steps towards implementing this resolution.

Duma Rules for Promulgation of Laws Cited

MK0502110094 Moscow KOMMERSANT-DAILY in Russian 5 Feb 94 p 2

[Larisa Yevtushik report: "Rules for Publication of Normative Act. State Duma Defines Procedure for Laws To Enter Into Force"]

[Text] The lower chamber of parliament passed yesterday in the first reading a law "On the Procedure for Publishing and Entry Into Force of Federal Constitutional Laws, Federal Laws, Acts of the Russian Federation Federal Council Chambers."

The publishing of laws and other legal acts for general information is one of the principles of a rule-of-law state. Laws that are not published officially shall not apply. The procedure for publishing federal constitutional laws is envisioned by the Constitution. The procedure for publishing legal acts will be determined by the law considered by the Duma yesterday.

Laws shall enter into force on the entire territory of Russia 10 days after their first official publication unless the laws or other acts specify some other procedure of entering into force.

The publication of laws in VEDOMOSTI FEDERALNOGO SOBRANIYA ROSSIYSKOY FEDERATSII, ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA, and the newspaper ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI, shall be regarded as official.

Federal constitutional law, federal laws, acts of the Federal Council chambers may be officially published in different press organs, or be brought to general knowledge over television, radio, or transmitted via communication lines, or sent to state organs, officials, enterprises, institutions, organizations.

VEDOMOSTI FEDERALNOGO SOBRANIYA ROSSIYSKOY FEDERATSII shall be the official periodic publication of parliament. It will publish not only laws, decrees, and other parliament acts, but also international treaties, Constitutional Court decisions, materials of parliament hearings, and official communications of the Central Electoral Commission.

Legal Acts Publication Deadlines

—Federal constitutional laws and federal laws shall be officially published within time frames established by the Russian Federation Constitution for their promulgation.

—Decrees, statements, appeals, and other acts of the Federal Council chambers shall be published within seven days of their adoption.

Upper Chamber Sets Limits on Salaries, Staff

MK0402130094 Moscow SEGODNYA in Russian 4 Feb 94 p 2

[Vladimir Todres report under the "Federation Council" rubric: Senate's Needs Are Modest. Shumeyko's Salary Will Equal Chernomyrdin's"]

[Text] A deputy who is to sign up to work for any committee of the parliament's upper chamber will now be paid the same monthly salary as a minister—this is today a little more than 300,000 rubles [R]. This was decided yesterday by the Federation Council, which got down to tackling the unpopular question of providing sustenance for itself and made a serious attempt to put its needs within more or less modest limits. Following this principle, the salaries of committee chairmen will be the same as those of vice premiers, and those of vice speakers will be the same as those of first vice premiers. The pay of Speaker Vladimir Shumeyko will become level with that of Premier Viktor Chernomyrdin.

Until then, according to the "Temporary Rules," each senator will receive five minimum monthly salaries (that is, R70,000) a month for "deputy expenses," or mailing, printing, and so on. As of yesterday, however, every one of them has the right to hire any number of assistants provided their total pay does not exceed 80 minimum monthly wages, or R1.12 million a month. Curiously, in order not to scout for personnel around the capital, it was suggested to the new parliamentarians that they take a look at the lists of the now unemployed assistants of the former body of deputies.

The bulk of expenses will naturally fall on the senate's staff. Its final structure has not been determined yet. At any rate, it has been decided that at first each of the Federation Council committees will employ 12 persons.

The main supporting force will be the chamber's general staff: the staff head and three of his deputies will be in charge of an analytical center, three legal departments, departments for information technologies, relations with Federation components, international departments, and a press center, plus the inevitable personnel department, general affairs, logistics, and other departments. According to Vladimir Shumeyko, nearly 400 persons will thus get jobs. Importantly, the number is primarily limited by the lack of space in the Federation Council building, the former State Committee of Construction building. The staff can be increased of course, "if we take over the lean-to, a little building...."

Yeltsin's Envoy to Parliament Explains Duties

MK0402123094 Moscow OBSHCHAYA GAZETA in Russian No. 5/30, 4-10 Feb 94 (Signed to press 3 Feb) p 8

[Interview with Aleksandr Yakovlev, the Russian president's newly appointed representative to the Federal Assembly, by Yelena Dikun in the "Presentation" column: "The New Plenipotentiary Representative Has No Excessive Ambitions. At Least No Political Ambitions"; place and date not given]

[Text] The well-known lawyer, Professor Aleksandr Yakovlev, has been appointed the Russian Federation president's plenipotentiary representative in the Federal Assembly. In the former parliament the president was represented first by State Secretary Gennadiy Burbulis, then State Legal Directorate chief Sergey Shakhray, and finally State Legal Directorate Deputy Chief Anatoliy Sliva. All three did this duty while continuing to work in their regular jobs, failing to achieve any particular success in consolidating the president's cooperation with the Supreme Soviet. How does the president's new envoy envision his role?

[Yakovlev] First of all, what is involved is not one representative but the creation of the president's representative institution constantly interacting with the Federal Assembly. In my charge will be a special service with 20 to 30 employees, mainly jurists. Our work will be centered on ensuring the smooth passage of draft laws submitted by the president. We shall not just present them for the parliament's consideration, as was the case before, but supplement them with the requisite comments or organize discussions on them.

Furthermore, I hope that with time the service of the plenipotentiary representative will be used by the Federal Assembly as a feedback channel through which deputies will be able to make their proposals or complaints known to the president. To prevent the separation of powers from turning into a new "confrontation of the branches," it is necessary to set up constructive interaction at all working levels, including ours. This is where I see my task. Concrete materialization will always depend on the initiatives which the constitution has granted the president with respect to parliament.

[Dikun] Although you are a well-known lawyer, up to now no high posts have been offered to you. Lately, if I am not mistaken, you have been working in the United States. Why did they suddenly remember you in the Kremlin?

[Yakovlev] Indeed, recently I have been delivering a course of lectures at Emory University in Atlanta; it was devoted to our domestic affairs: the evolution of Russian constitutionality. Then, presidential administration chief Sergey Filatov offered me this post. It is hard for me to judge the motives, but it is very important that I collaborate with Filatov because we have worked together on the new draft constitution and we are on the same wavelength.

[Dikun] Your predecessors in this post, Burbulis and Shakhray, had reputations as being conflict prone. They did not manage to establish good contacts with the parliament. Do you believe in your good luck?

[Yakovlev] At any rate, I will try to establish rapport. I am a fairly flexible man and, what is most important, I believe that law serves equally all political forces acting within the framework of the legitimate constitution. Moreover, I have no personal power ambitions or any ulterior political super-task.

[Dikun] Your new duties are largely similar to diplomatic ones. You will have to smooth out the rough edges that may emerge in relations between the president and parliament, and sometimes act in the role of the president's advocate....

[Yakovlev] Legally no such duties have been assigned to me and everything here will depend on the president's articulated intention. Only he can empower me for such actions. Of course, whatever I do, I shall proceed from the presumption of constitutionality of the president's actions. It is another matter if I am asked to support a particular initiative or proposal which in my opinion is not justified by constitutional norms: In that event I will immediately tender my resignation and go back to the Institute of State and Law, where I have some very interesting work to do.

Regional Affairs

Tatarstan President's Moscow Visit Postponed

LD0502123394 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1204 GMT 5 Feb 94

[By unidentified ITAR-TASS correspondent]

[Text] Moscow, 5 Feb—Reports by some mass media that President Mintimer Shaymiyev of Tatarstan has arrived in Moscow and is to have a meeting today with President Boris Yeltsin of the Russian Federation are factually incorrect, an ITAR-TASS correspondent learned at Tatarstan's permanent mission in Moscow.

Such a meeting was indeed planned, the diplomat on duty at the mission pointed out, but for a number of reasons it has been postponed until a new date can be set.

Russians Worried by 'Progressive Tatarization'

MK0402140094 Moscow KOMMERSANT-DAILY in Russian 4 Feb 94 p 4

[Sergey Fedotov report: "Russian-Tatarstan Treaty. Russians in Tatarstan Worried About Their Fate"]

[Excerpts] Talks between Russia and Tatarstan on a treaty formalizing the republic's special status will begin in Moscow today. The two sides will probably agree that Tatarstan, unlike other regions, will become an associate member of the federation. KOMMERSANT-DAILY will report on the results of the talks crowning the post-communist period of tensions in relations between Moscow and Kazan once the talks are completed. At this stage, however, Russians living in Tatarstan are seriously concerned about their fate. [passage omitted]

In everyday life, antagonisms between the Russian and the Tatar parts of the republic's population are not so striking and the authorities have been nearly ritualistically appealing to the united people of Tatarstan. It has taken the Tatarstan leadership a great deal of effort, however, to keep the Tatar national movement, which demands a complete break with Russia, within the limits of political correctness. According to observers, now it is less "visible" politicians, but still advocates of Tatarstan's gradual secession from the federation, who are coming to the fore. "On the surface it has really become quieter in Tatarstan, but this is only scenery behind which a gradual removal of Russians to secondary roles is taking place," Yuriy Rostovshchikov, leader of the Social Democrats in Kazan and candidate for the State Duma, told your KOMMERSANT-DAILY correspondent. As he put it, this is reflected in the "progressive Tatarization of government."

According to the "Russian Federation Citizens" movement, in a republic where Russians make up around 43 percent of the population, Tatars account for 92 percent of government ministers, state committee chairmen, and administration chiefs; 77 percent of Supreme Soviet standing commission chairmen; and 76 percent of rayon administration chiefs.

"The trend is such that soon there will be no Russians holding government offices or high posts in industry. Then mid-level chiefs will have to go, too," said Nikolay Borisov, chairman of the Russian National Assembly's Duma. This organization has proposed, among other things, the introduction of a proportional ethnic representation in legislative, executive, and judicial bodies; and a parliament made up of a Russian Duma and a Tatar National Assembly.

In observers' view, the slogans of Russian patriots may gain wide popular appeal among Russian residents of Tatarstan. If the plunge in living standards of the republic's Russian population (and defense enterprises with a predominantly Russian work force are beset by economic woes) causes strikes, that same Russian Assembly will find it easy to add nationalist slogans to the workers' economic demands.

Tatar Industries Tip Scales in Kazan's Favor

MK0502122094 Moscow KOMMERSANT-DAILY in Russian 5 Feb 94 p 3

[Zinaida Chetvertak report: "Russia-Tatarstan Treaty. Kazan Close to Victory in Dispute With Moscow"]

[Text] Yesterday Tatarstan Vice President Vasiliy Likhachev held intensive talks with the Russian Government in preparation for the meeting between Mintimer

Shaymiyev and Boris Yeltsin. According to reports received by KOMMERSANT-DAILY, the Tatarstan president is to arrive in Moscow this weekend to discuss with the Russian president the final conditions for signing an interstate treaty. The document, which will be unprecedented for the Russian Federation, will give Tatarstan—one of the most powerful components in economic terms—a special status compared with other regions.

Mintimer Shaymiyev's views on Russia's structure differ from Boris Yeltsin's. In the Tatarstan president's opinion, the federation should be built not from Moscow, but from the regions, which will hand over to the center only those powers they are unable to exercise on their own. At the same time, Mintimer Shaymiyev consistently dismisses charges that the republic is going to secede from the federation. "What we are standing for is not a secession from Russia, but treaty-based relations and a voluntary transfer of a number of powers to the center. Tatarstan does not plan to set up its own army, or to erect a border, or to quit the ruble zone," he said in one of his interviews.

Tatarstan Vice President Vasiliy Likhachev conducted talks with Viktor Chernomyrdin, Yuriy Yarov, and Sergey Shakhray to settle with them the last five agreements on which the treaty "On the Delegation of Terms of Reference and Powers of State Authorities" will actually be based. There is a total of 12 agreements, out of which seven were signed last year, when Tatarstan had its way by skillfully playing on the conflict between the president and the Russian Supreme Soviet.

Reports that Tatarstan is ready to take part in the new elections for the Federal Assembly scheduled for 13 March and that Mintimer Shaymiyev and Farid Mukhametshin are even going to run for the Federal Assembly's upper chamber suggest that the remaining five agreements will also be signed. Evidently, this is the price Kazan will have to pay for a treaty that will recognize the sovereignty of a republic where Boris Yeltsin, then a candidate for the Russian presidency, made a statement that secured him support from the regions: "Take as much sovereignty as you can digest."

In mid-February Boris Yeltsin will leave for Kazan to reap the first fruits of that statement. Afterward, however, no one will be able to say whether they will be the last ones or whether other republics will follow Tatarstan's suit. Predicting whether Kazan's appetites will be satisfied by a bilateral treaty will be just as difficult a task.

A list of agreements on the basis of which the treaty between Russia and Tatarstan will be concluded

Signed in 1993

Agreements on the prospecting and production of oil; on ownership matters; on the mutual delegation of powers regarding defense industries; on customs; on the organization and transportation of oil and oil products; on environmental cooperation; on education policy.

Expected to be signed in February 1994

Agreements on the budget; on the banking system; on foreign economic activity; on combating crime; on military organization.

Commentary

A special relationship between Tatarstan and Moscow has been determined primarily by the federal authorities' interest in maintaining their influence in a region that is strategically important for the Russian economy. It is there that a number of Russia's largest monopolistic enterprises, such as KamAZ, "Kazanorgsintez," and "Tasma," are located. The republic accounts for 40 percent of polyethylene; 34 percent of thermoplastic tubes; 100 percent of motion picture and photo films; and 53 percent of diesel trucks manufactured in Russia. Moscow's considerable dependence on Kazan for various industrial products has been compounded by Tatarstan's monopoly of military aircraft and helicopter production (Tu-160 Blackjack and Tu-22M3 Backfire strategic bombers, Mi-8, Mi-8MTB, Mi-9, and Mi-17 multipurpose helicopters). So, serious arguments in a dialogue with Moscow have made Tatarstan, along with Yakutia, an "ice breaker" in pushing through regional export quotas. Last year, the republic was given a quota to export 8 million tonnes of oil out of the 25 million tonnes it produced. The federal authorities, however, have just as weighty economic trump cards. In particular, they may capitalize on extremely scanty natural gas reserves in Tatarstan. More important, however, is the problem of the republic's independent sales of its production, primarily oil. It is not only the need to use Russian oil pipelines that matters. Tatar oil, given its high sulfur content, does not hold particular interest for foreign consumers. This is the reason it is mixed with Tyumen oil to obtain a product known on the world market as "Soviet export mix."

Yakutsk Calm Despite Explosion Threat

PM0402170594 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 5 Feb 94 First Edition p 1

[Report by Igor Andreyev, Arkadiy Zheludkov, and Valeriy Yakov: "Terrorists Maintain Tension in Yakutsk, While the Authorities Play at Secrecy"]

[Text] For three days now the editorial office's correspondents have been trying to find out the details of the case of the "Retribution" terrorist group which has demanded 500 million rubles [R] and $500,000 from the government of the Republic of Sakha-Yakutia, threatening to blow up vitally important facilities in Yakutsk.

After the republic Prosecutor's Office instituted criminal proceedings in connection with the threats, we contacted

Nikolay Valentinskiy, deputy prosecutor of Sakha-Yakutia. According to our interlocutor, the inhabitants and the law-enforcement organs learned of the critical situation in the city from reports in the central media.

There is no panic in Yakutsk, he said. All enterprises, including schools, are functioning normally. N. Valentinskiy did not confirm, but nor did he deny the editorial office's information that a description had been obtained of one of the terrorists, who brought an audio-cassette to the mayor's office with the "Retribution" group's demands on it. N. Valentinskiy refused to supply any other details of the incident, citing the ban on providing the press with information until the inquiry has been completed.

We were unable to obtain any more information from the republic Security Ministry office. According to the minister's aide, the law-enforcement organs are operating in accordance with a special plan. The criminals have not contacted them again. There has been no agreement so far on the place or time of a meeting.

Vladimir Fedyunin, Sakha-Yakutia first deputy minister of internal affairs, was more definite. "It is total rubbish," he said in connection with the description of the terrorist. V. Fedyunin refused to say any more to IZVESTIYA, on the assumption that there might be calls from the terrorists' accomplices.

Confidential sources reported that information on the willingness to make a payment was broadcast on Yakutsk television Channel 12 at the appointed hour on 3 February. The money was to be collected by someone in a Moskvich car after a signal had been given on television. There was no agreement, nor could there have been any agreement on the place where the money was to be handed over—our correspondent was citing private conversations with republic Internal Affairs Minister Valeriy Fedorov and General Prosecutor Vasiliy Kolmogorov.

Local law-enforcement organs checked on potential hoaxers suspected of similar threats in the past, but they obtained no information on the terrorists. According to the law-enforcement organs' current data, there have been no reports of any "Retribution" terrorist group.

There was an earlier occasion, in 1993, when an unidentified citizen also called the local authorities and threatened to blow up power facilities in Yakutsk unless he received some money. It turned out to be a hoax.

We were told at the Russian Ministry for Emergencies that an aircraft carrying a rescue team and the necessary equipment and medicines had been prepared in connection with the situation in Yakutsk, in case of unforeseen developments.

Terrorist Detained

LD0702093394 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0839 GMT 7 Feb 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Vladimir Gondusov]

[Text] Moscow February 7 TASS—The terrorist who threatened to explode the key life-supporting installations in the city of Yakutsk, north-eastern Siberia, was arrested on Sunday [6 February]. Yakutsk Mayor Aleksey Tomtosov told ITAR-TASS by telephone on Monday morning that the terrorist was a certain Abdulayev, who had been earlier convicted three times.

On February 4 he demanded that the republic's government deliver 500,000 U.S. dollars and 500 million roubles or else he would set off several explosions and commit several other acts of terror in Yakutsk.

It was soon found out that Abdulayev had planted no bombs. It was also established that no group Vozmezdie (Retribution) existed: It was an invention of the hardened criminal who wanted money to pay off major debts and "enjoy some good living", as he put it himself. Aleksey Tomtosov said criminal proceedings had been instituted. Specialists of the Federal Ministry of Internal Affairs and Counter-Intelligence Service supposed from the very beginning that the criminal was bluffing, but a large-scale operation was launched to make sure that no danger threatens the city and its residents.

North Ossetian Leader Charges Ingushetia 'Interference'

MK0402150094 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 4 Feb 94 p 3

[Unattributed report under the "NEGA Reports" rubric: "North Ossetia"]

[Text] Yuriy Biragov, chairman of the Supreme Soviet of the Republic of North Ossetia, has censured the Ingush side's initiative to introduce a special form of administration in North Ossetia's Prigorodnyy Rayon. "We assess such a proposal of the Ingush side as crude interference in the internal affairs of the Republic of North Ossetia," says Yuriy Bagirov's statement. "Their realization would make a further peaceful settlement of the relations between the peoples of the two republics impossible and reduce to naught the peacemaking work done by the leaders of Russia and the provisional administration; likewise the accords reached in the course of the negotiating process."

Galazov Assesses Round of Talks

LD0602151594 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1445 GMT 6 Feb 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Valeriy Shanayev]

[Text] Vladikavkaz February 6 TASS—North Ossetia's first President Akhsarbek Galazov assessed the past week as intense and fruitful. "Taking part in the work of the Russian parliament's upper house, I managed to meet with Russian head of government Viktor Chernomyrdin and other leaders of the Russian Federation", Galazov told TASS on returning from Moscow. "We considered some pressing issues aiming to assist the republic in solving social and economic problems", he reported.

Commenting on the meeting of the Russian Government presidium, which discussed the situation in the zone under state of emergency rule in the light of the presidential decree extending the state of emergency for another two months, the North Ossetian president said "the Russian president's decree was been approved but with considerable reservations. A deputies' group was set up to gather objective information on the spot... I submitted to the Russian Government our proposals as for how achieve a peaceful settlement in relations between North Ossetia and Ingushetia. These proposals had been approved by the republic's multi-national people. The Ossetian side is ready to work for improving relations with all neighbouring countries. But we must not use force on this way towards peace. Force engenders only force", Galazov stressed.

The North Ossetian leader flatly rejected the idea by the Ingush side of imposing a special rule on the Prigorodniy District as the sole possible way to overcome the current crisis. Galazov qualified the idea as a gross interference into North Ossetia's internal affairs. "The problem of refugees' return should be solved not with military help of federal authorities, but on the basis of Kislovodsk accords", he said referring to the agreements on a complex solution to the problem of refugees and forced migrants in Ingushetia and North Ossetia, which were reached by the Russian, Ingush and North Ossetian delegations in the North Caucasian town of Kislovodsk last March. "Of the greatest importance here are conciliation commissions now working in each locality of the Prigorodniy District", Galazov emphasised.

The situation in the zone under state of emergency rule, which has been extended for another two months, remains relatively calm, TASS was told at the North Ossetian Security Council. Military sources confirmed that no conflicts on ethnic grounds had been registered there. Russian peacekeeping forces and local law-enforcement bodies are in control of the situation.

Chechen Opposition Surrounding Dudayev's Home

LD0702064694 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 0500 GMT 7 Feb 94

[Text] Units of the Chechen armed opposition have surrounded General Dudayev's residence in Groznyy, ANI agency reports. The leader of the opposition, Gen. Ibrahim Suleymenov has ordered combat maneuvers to be started near Dudayev's residence. Taking part in these maneuvers are helicopters rehearsing air strikes against enemy positions. In an interview with ANI, Gen. Suleymenov confirmed that he was ready for national reconciliation on the condition of the immediate resignation of Gen. Dudayev from all his posts and the return to Chechnya of the funds from Dudayev's secret accounts in foreign banks.

Karelia Suffering Critical Fuel Shortages

LD0502155094 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1421 GMT 5 Feb 94

[Text] The Russian republic of Karelia is desperately short of fuel, according to an officer at the republic's civil defense headquarters.

The officer told INTERFAX the stocks of residual fuel oil in the republic's capital Petrozavodsk and in Medvezhyegorsk would only last three days, those in Belomorsk and Segezh for two days. Coal supplies in Petrozavodsk would run out in a week, those in Medvezhyegorsk in four days, he said.

Karelia is unable to pay the firms providing it with fuel and has asked the federal government for help, the officer said. A commission has been set up in the republic to redistribute the remaining fuel to keep the central heating systems and larger factories going.

According to some sources, the Karelian government was due to meet on Saturday to discuss emergency measures.

The temperature in the republic, which lies in northwestern Russia, has these days been staying at between minus 18 and 20 degrees Centigrade.

Energy Minister Addresses Khabarovsk Fuel Shortage

LD0702092594 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0811 GMT 7 Feb 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Leonid Vinogradov]

[Text] Vladivostok February 7 TASS—Russia's Far East is suffering from the cold and this suffering is further aggravated by the disruption of fuel and energy supplies. The Federal Fuel and Energy Minister Yuriy Shafranik has had to fly to Khabarovsk in order to try and solve the most pressing problems "on site".

According to specialists, all enterprises in this vast region are likely to stop unless emergency measures are taken promptly. The cities will have to live without electricity for ten hours every day, and the local thermal power stations will use up all the electricity to keep going.

The Russian Maritime Territory needs about 47,000 tonnes of coal every day to keep its electricity-generating plants going. At present, the daily supplies have dwindled to 23-25 thousand tonnes, and the emergency reserves are vanishing. This is why electricity supplies have to be cut off in the evenings and the major cities, including Vladivostok, Nakhodka, Ussuriisk and others are plunged in the shadows one after another in the evenings. In many houses and departments the average temperature never rises about 6-7 degrees centigrade.

The energy crisis is largely due to the epidemic of non-payment, although the federal government adopted a resolution on October 8, 1993 to bring about "emergency measures of support of the Maritime Territory". The federal budget owes more than 30 billion roubles to the coal producers. The coalminers in the territory are owed 19 billion roubles in wages.

Last year the Primorugol Association was unable to purchase a single mechanised set of machinery. The machinery and equipment now used by the miners are wornout and even at full capacity produce a million tonnes of coal less than planned.

The federal government delivered 35 billion roubles to the territory but the money was fully spent to pay for earlier supplies.

Nonpayment of Workers Causes Tension

PM0402153994 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 3 Feb 94 First Edition p 2

[Gennadiy Gypylov report: "Not To Die in Friendly Embraces"]

[Text] Irkutsk—At the beginning of February reciprocal nonpayments between power workers and miners have sharply complicated relations between Irkutsk Oblast and Krasnoyarsk Kray.

The miners of Irsha-Borodino Open-Cut Mine, in Krasnoyarsk Kray, seem to be on the point of stopping sending coal to their consumers, including Irkutsk Oblast. To hit its heat and electric power stations below the belt, as the saying goes. You can imagine what kind of a situation is being created in that complex.... In addition, its own "Vostsibugol" miners are also in a prestrike state.

What complaint is being advanced from the two fronts? Reciprocal nonpayments. The power workers are in the same trouble. What money can they demand from Bratsk Industrial Complex, let us assume, when it is on the point of being reduced to beggary?

As regards the non-delivery of Borodino coal, Oblast Governor Yuriy Nozhikov has already promised to "introduce countersanctions." For example, to stop the supply of electricity to Krasnoyarsk's industrial enterprises. No, they have not yet fallen out with each other: They are continuing to seek ways to resolve the problem of nonpayments, and they also intend to hold consultations with the Russian Federation Government. The situation is difficult, although it should not be overdramatized. There is still a hope, although it might be a naive one: They are, after all, neighbors. For only yesterday they were championing their interests at the federal level. Today this is necessary at the local level. However "wild" the market might be, the governor is right: "We will never give up the defense of the region's interests. We will say that we cannot increase or reduce the run-off of water to the hydroelectric power station without affecting the interests of Yenisey River shipping. We will not encroach upon each other." Or the gram of coal and the kilowatt-hour of electricity, which are essential to the people, will still prove to be serious arguments, and financial chaos will divide the Siberians along their own banks—the banks of the Angara and the Yenisey.

'Economic Union' of Far East Regions Formed

LD0702073894 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0733 GMT 7 Feb 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Eduard Popov]

[Text] Vladivostok February 7 TASS—Seven northern regions of Russia's far eastern Maritime Territory have joined in an economic union, which "has nothing to do with separatism," according to deputy administration chief of the Maritime Territory Fedor Konyukhov.

"The commonality of the geographic location and economic problems necessitate the consolidation of efforts in the interests of the entire territory. The most pressing task is to revivify the timber, mining and fur industries and to combat the plunder of natural riches and their illicit export," Konyukhov said.

According to Konyukhov, the new organisation will form an economic mini-community within this component part of the Russian Federation. It pursues no political aims.

Work is under way on the charter and programme of the economic union which are expected to be approved by the second joint session of the heads of administrations. The organisation will be funded from the budget of the territory and its component parts.

International Affairs

Servicemen Attempt To Seize Black Sea Fleet Unit

LD0502121594 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1137 GMT 5 Feb 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Sergey Ostanin]

[Text] Moscow, 5 Feb—More than 300 Ukrainian servicemen attempted on Friday to seize the territory of a military unit of the Black Sea Fleet in Nikolayev (southern Ukraine). Around 10 of them were armed with automatic weapons, an ITAR-TASS correspondent was informed by phone today by the fleet's press center. Only restraint on the part of the command of the brigade of ships under construction and of a hospital, which the attackers penetrated, prevented a more serious incident from occurring.

It says the Ukrainian side regarded as justification for these actions the fact that three officers and five warrant officers of the hospital base submitted applications with a request to serve in the Ukrainian Navy. At the same time, these Black Sea servicemen intend to move under the jurisdiction of the Ukrainian Defense Ministry together with material resources, equipment, and weapons.

"The position of the Black Sea Command remains invariable: we are not going to impede those who want to serve in the Ukrainian Navy," an ITAR-TASS correspondent was told at the fleet's press center.

However, all units, bases, ships and other military installations belonging to the fleet remain under the jurisdiction of the Black Sea Fleet command, as follows from the Yalta agreement signed by the presidents of Russia and Ukraine. Only the signatures of the two presidents can authorize any actions with regard to the fleet.

The press center voiced its regret that the unwillingness to understand this undermined the authority of the representatives of the command of the Ukrainian Navy who have been lately talking with increasing frequency about their desire to conduct a dialogue with the fleet's command.

Navy Comments on Conflict

LD0502191394 Kiev UKRINFORM in Russian 1633 GMT 5 Feb 94

[By UKRINFORM correspondent Mikhail Stetsyuk]

[Text] Sevastopol, 5 Feb—Captain First Rank Aleksandr Rodkin, Nikolayev senior sea commander, and his subordinates have prevented the removal of materials and capital equipment from the supply depot of the local Black Sea Fleet hospital base. The attempt was made yesterday by the management of a vessel construction team, quoting an instruction by the Black Sea Fleet command.

Reporting this fact, the press center of Ukraine's Navy recalls that the day before, on 3 February, base personnel informed the Ukrainian Navy and Black Sea Fleet commands, as well as Ukraine's Defense Ministry about its decision to transfer to the Ukrainian Army to serve the people of Ukraine, since both commissioned and noncommissioned officers had lost all hope for a civilized solution on the part of the fleet's command to the problem of dividing the Black Sea Fleet and, consequently, to their social problems.

In its own commentary on the incident, the Black Sea Fleet press center notes that the fleet's command does not object to servicemen joining the Ukrainian Army, but the materials and capital equipment must remain with the fleet until the presidents of Ukraine and Russia make an appropriate decision on the division of the fleet property.

Employees of the hospital base complain of an ongoing removal of materials and equipment from the supply depots. They say they are trying to prevent any new attempts to seize the stock.

Officer Explains Incident

LD0502202694 Kiev UKRINFORM in Russian 1633 GMT 5 Feb 94

[Text] A UKRINFORM correspondent reports from Nikolayev that all is quiet today at the local hospital base. However, the unit commander has organized a 24-hour tour of duty by the unit personnel, maintaining regular contact with the local military and civil authorities. What caused such precautions?

"The hospital base personnel, where citizens of our state are serving, decided to take an oath of loyalty to the people of Ukraine," Aleksey Yutsyuk, deputy commander of the Ukraina cruiser, told UKRINFORM-TASS. "But Captain First Rank Halaychev, the commander of the Black Sea Fleet ship repair and construction team, decided to ban the oath-taking by force. He arrived at the base, together with a subunit from the Slava missile cruiser sailors, after which his subordinates broke into the supply depot and began to load equipment and medicine stored there onto their vehicle. However, servicemen of the neighboring Ukrainian unit prevented the illegal removal of the fleet property."

The hospital base personnel eventually did take an oath of loyalty to the people of Ukraine. Their commanders are currently drawing up papers to report an unauthorized attempt to seize the unit's property to the Procurator's Office.

Navy Spokesman Denies Incident

LD0502221994 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1658 GMT 5 Feb 94

[Text] A Ukrainian Navy spokesman has denied statements by senior officers in the Black Sea Fleet (BSF) that Ukrainian servicemen tried to seize a BSF hospital base on Friday.

Nikolay Savchenko, head of the Ukrainian Navy press center, said the BSF command ordered the removal of all property from the storehouses of a hospital base at Nikolayev after the officers serving at it applied to join the Ukrainian Navy, "having lost any hope that a civilized solution will be found to the problem of the Black Sea Fleet."

Savchenko said the BSF command was obeying only the orders and instructions of the Russian Defense Ministry, though the hospital base officers and employees were Ukrainian citizens.

"The uncontrolled removal of property from bases situated on Ukrainian territory does not help to find a civilized solution to the problem of the Black Sea Fleet," Savchenko said.

BSF spokesman Andrey Grachev told Interfax on Friday that more than 300 Ukrainian military officers, 10 of them armed with submachineguns, had burst into the base after officers serving at it applied to join the Ukrainian Navy.

Radetskyy Addresses Supreme Council on START 3 Feb

LD0402182094 Kiev Radio Ukraine World Service in Ukrainian 1405 GMT 3 Feb 94

[Speech by Defense Minister Vitaliy Radetskyy to the Supreme Council in Kiev—live]

[Text] Esteemed Leonid Makarovich [Kravchuk], Ivan Stepanovich [Plyushch], esteemed people's deputies: The degree of confidence which you showed in me when you confirmed me in the post of minister of defense of Ukraine, and those tasks which you set me, oblige me to report to you in an honest and dignified manner, not on the basis of instructions and requests, attuned to someone's orders, but proceeding from the point of view of military and technical reasons supported by our scientists—Ukraine is a state with rocket and space capability [raketno-kosmichna derzhava]. We have virtually everything for this. We only need to discard the nuclear symbolism for the sake of the economy. I am quite certain of this.

Analyzing our steps on the whole of the complex path to the resolution of the nuclear problem in Ukraine, we consider that this path has been consistent and on the whole right. This work was conducted under the leadership of the Supreme Council. All of the legislative acts which were adopted by the Supreme Council regarding the nuclear problem show that Ukraine has gradually been moving toward a non-nuclear status.

I have already reported in detail on all of these steps and resolutions at a joint session of the relevant Supreme Council commissions. Taking all of this into account, and also the fact that strategic nuclear weapons located in Ukraine are not a factor deterring an attack by an aggressor on our state nor a guarantee of its security, we consider that the next step of the Supreme Council of ratifying the START I Treaty on 19 November 1993 was entirely proper and logical.

Esteemed deputies, at the same time you know that the relevant reservations in the ratification of the START I Treaty by the Supreme Council of Ukraine unfortunately did not diminish international tension, but on the contrary complicated the problem of strategic nuclear weapons located in Ukraine even more, and especially where Russia was concerned. In such a situation it was necessary to act in a very considered way. We believed that, to the extent that we could convincingly show the world and our people the rightness of our legal and other actions regarding nuclear weapons, both the international prestige of Ukraine and the domestic situation in the state would depend on this, and so would the strategic prospect of our national security to a considerable extent.

Therefore we at the Ministry of Defense believed that of the whole set of nuclear issues our main task was to define our stance above all on the technical state of the nuclear weapons deployed in Ukraine. In the implementation of the resolution on ratification of the START I Treaty and the instruction of the president of Ukraine by the Ministry of Defense and myself personally, the state of nuclear weapons of the 43d missile army and (?the) long-range air force was thoroughly analyzed. Together with leading specialists and scientists of Ukraine, I personally inspected the situation at all nuclear facilities.

The work which was carried out allows me to report to you, esteemed deputies, the following conclusions, which from the point of view of military and technical reasons determine the necessity of a gradual withdrawal of nuclear warheads [yaderni boyeprypasy], which in accordance with their technical state have gone beyond the guarantee service period.

I consider that the main thing is that the nuclear warheads, with which intercontinental ballistic missiles are equipped, constitute very complex technical apparatus, for the creation of which a lengthy and extremely expensive process of design, testing, and production is needed. To date Ukraine has not had the possibility of resolving these tasks. Nor will it have in the near future. There is no scientific and production base for creating nuclear weapons in our state. There are no ranges to test them on, nor specialists in recycling nuclear warheads.

And the main thing, esteemed deputies, is the economic condition of our state. To continue, one should also take account of the fact that a tough and obligatory condition of the safe maintenance of nuclear weapons is the uninterrupted scientific and technical accompaniment to its operation, which consists of constant supervision [kontrol] and regular inspection of the state of nuclear warheads (?and of elaborated) scientifically grounded technical decisions regarding the possibility and conditions for further operation of nuclear warheads [yaderni boyevi bloky]. From the practical aspect, the design offices and plants, manufacturers of nuclear weapons located in Russia, are obliged to carry out such scientific and technical accompaniment. But today they are not carrying out these measures, and on the contrary are blocking them.

It is also necessary to emphasize that the guaranteed service periods of a considerable number of nuclear warheads located in Ukraine are expiring or have already expired. It could happen that unsupervised [nekontrolyovanyy] physical processes which are occurring in nuclear warheads will be unforeseen, and the state of nuclear weapons will become critical.

The impossibility of replacing gas reactors, whose guarantee service periods have already expired, in nuclear warheads causes especial concern. The said reactors are produced in Russia and are not arriving in Ukraine. To date more than 300 (?nuclear) reactors have accumulated in our state, which need urgent replacement.

In addition, the storage of nuclear weapons in repositories remains a complex problem. Thus, when a large number of nuclear warheads are located in nuclear technical units, the level of their nuclear safety is lowered and leads to the loss of the guarantee of the chief designer. That which is in the repositories of the nuclear technical units of the 46th missile division consists, together with SS-24 missiles, (?of) 60 nuclear warheads, the investigation of three of which showed, which our president spoke about, that irreversible physical and chemical processes are occurring. The extent of the (?danger of explosion) of radioactive materials of the warheads is increasing drastically.

The list of violations determining a critical state of nuclear and ecological safety could be continued. Taken all together, they could lead to an accident, the consequent scale of which could potentially exceed the Chernobyl disaster. Esteemed deputies, I pray to God not to let this happen.

One cannot not emphasize that the state of nuclear safety is also affected by the condition of missiles, the servicing of which is also not fully carried out and with violations of the operational demands and normative documents, I (?do not) have in mind specialists from Russia. The conclusion is that proceeding from what has been set forth above, the further maintenance of nuclear warheads [yaderni boyeprypasy] on the territory of Ukraine presents a danger not just for Ukraine and Russia, but also for our other neighboring states in Europe and the Near East; in the event of an accident, they will find themselves in the zone of radioactive contamination.

Thus because of the circumstances of the necessity of implementing the demands in the resolution of the Supreme Council of Ukraine on ratification of the START I Treaty concerning conducting further talks, meetings, and accords—as a result of this the trilateral statement by the presidents of Ukraine, the United States, and Russia, and the appendix to it, are a necessary and logical step in the matter of Ukraine acquiring a nonnuclear status, and on the whole resolve positively all military-technical issues of nuclear weapons in Ukraine.

We believe that with the aim of guaranteed implementation of the demands of the trilateral statement and the appendix to it it is necessary during further talks with the Russian Federation to elaborate and sign a number of documents to determine the time periods, procedure, and conditions for the transfer of Russian nuclear warheads. The following should be included in these documents: a schedule for dispatching the first group of nuclear warheads over 10 months; an agreement regarding the procedure and conditions for supervision on the part of Ukraine over the dismantlement and recycling of nuclear warheads at enterprises of the industry of the Russian Federation; an agreement on compensation to Ukraine on the part of the Russian Federation for the value of the transferred warheads; an agreement on warranty inspection and servicing by the manufacturer of the state of nuclear warheads over the whole period of their being in Ukraine, including the process of transportation to Ukrainian S facilities and to bases at plants of Russia's industrial enterprises; a protocol on the mutual obligations of Ukraine and the Russian Federation regarding the grouping of strategic nuclear forces in Ukraine and conditions of joint supervision over the state of nuclear missile weapons.

(?As regards) equal relations over the period of the reduction of nuclear weapons with states of the nuclear club, including with the United States, and after the START I Treaty comes into force and Ukraine's accession to the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty of 1 July 1968, they should be equivalent to those measures which are taken concerning supervision of the reduction of nuclear armaments by every state, and incidentally under the supervision of our specialists.

I consider, esteemed deputies, that I should draw your attention to another aspect of the nuclear problem. This is about the fact that, notwithstanding the reduction of strategic nuclear weapons, we will have a very careful attitude to keeping the personnel and infrastructure of the 43d missile army. This is in general of great value, I mean both the specialists and the material base. All of this can in the very near future be successfully used, not just in the interests of the state's military security, but also for civilian needs.

I believe that the accords achieved by the presidents of Ukraine, the United States, and Russia in Moscow on 14 January of this year on the whole resolve positively virtually all military-technical issues of nuclear weapons in Ukraine, which satisfies the conditions of nuclear disarmament determined in the resolution of the Supreme Council of Ukraine of 18 July [as heard] 1993. And I would ask you, esteemed deputies, to support the proposals of our president. Thank you for your attention.

Zlenko on Nuclear Weapons

LD0402184094 Kiev Radio Ukraine World Service in Ukrainian 1142 GMT 3 Feb 94

[Speech by Foreign Minister Anatoliy Zlenko at the Supreme Council session in Kiev—live]

[Excerpts] Esteemed deputies, esteemed president, esteemed Ivan Stepanovych. You understand that the question or the whole problem of nuclear weapons that are located in Ukraine remains, for the moment, the most important problem. I would like to begin by saying that after the Supreme Council's ratification of START I, neither Russia nor the United States recognized the act of ratification as though it had taken place. Obviously, this is why we were forced to deal with an extraordinary situation and forced to resolve, in a short period of time, exceptionally complex issues. I would like to say that the situation developed in a very complicated way. Since the first days of Ukraine's independence we had never felt such intense international pressure, the main aim of which was to isolate us as quickly and as broadly as possible internationally. The main thing that is almost completely unacceptable and was unacceptable and which provoked the toughest reaction was the refusal by Ukraine to accede to the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty [NPT]. On this issue I would like to assure you that there is an absolute consensus by CSCE member countries. The treaty should be universal and undoubtedly extended for an unspecified period. We have been given to understand that by refusing to accede to the NPT, Ukraine is joining a group of states that do not have a very high rating in the world and many of the world's democratic countries are talking about this. The second thing is that doubt was cast on the very fact that Ukraine would ratify the START treaty and a rumor was spread that Ukraine was reviewing its policy of attaining nonnuclear status as set out in its basic foreign policy documents. Obviously great harm was inflicted on Ukraine's international image. I will be frank. To achieve glory as an unreliable international partner that fails to abide by its promises—moreover a country that is only two years old—is a very disadvantageous and I would even say almost hopeless situation. To remain without support in the world community, even if one thinks one is right, is a losing game. You do not have to go far for examples.

I would like to note separately that President Leonid Makarovych Kravchuk's position on this, which he announced in a speech soon after the ratification of the START treaty, is exceptionally important. It was really an important political and diplomatic step. Thanks to it we managed to avoid, without any exaggeration, serious complications. Such a position left the doors open for us for contacts and for future work. How did our foreign policy department act under these conditions? I would like to tell you, esteemed people's deputies, that practically in the first hours following the ratification of the START treaty, the ministry began work on explaining the content of the Supreme Council's resolutions and the motives that caused it to raise the reservations at the time of ratification. [passage omitted]

You recall the phrase spoken by our president, Leonid Makarovych: It is the first time that I experienced the difficult situation that Ukraine was fated to endure at the beginning of December 1993. We did not broadcast this widely. We could not do this because we understood that the nation might not be able to withstand all this. We dealt with this and worked on it calmly and took it to its conclusion. Esteemed deputies, international isolation—and I would like to place particular emphasize on this—creates such an attitude in the world toward an isolated country that any kind of forced methods against it are received as a naturally forced reaction to its behavior. As an example, I would like to remind you of the course of events on the eve of the war in the Persian Gulf. Then the United States and its allies made use of the full isolation of Iraq almost six months before the military operation to find support for actions throughout the entire world community. It was a great mistake not to take into account Russia's reactions on the possible transformation of Ukraine into a nuclear state. You are aware that such an option is not only unacceptable to the political and military leadership of that country but also plays the role of a popular slogan for those like one of the winners in the recent elections who support the transformation of Ukraine into a new Russian province [huberniya]. In this connection I would like to return to the key issues for our security and future as an independent state, the value of nuclear weapons as a restraining factor. Foreign experts and the overwhelming majority of those who understand these things tell us that the only weapon capable of halting aggression is the one that can be put to real use by inflicting unacceptable harm on the aggressor. Not only us, but all nuclear states know that Ukraine does not have operational control over the nuclear weapons located on our territory. [passage omitted]

I would also like to dwell on safeguarding Ukraine's interests and above all the national security of our state. It seems that the state of our economy clearly underlines an obvious and undeniable truth or thesis that is only too obvious today: that the main component of any state's security is a healthy economy and sociopolitical stability in society. If this does not exist, no kind of nuclear weapon, even if it is controlled and reliable, will help. The example of the former USSR serves as an example, and Leonid Makarovych spoke about this. We must consider whether we can preserve independence achieved at this price if, having found ourselves in isolation and without friends in the world, we encounter a situation where supplies of energy sources and in particular of nuclear fuel, are completely cut off and every kind of economic cooperation is frozen. Could we survive for long? [passage omitted]

We will be frank, esteemed deputies. It is a serious and difficult political decision but I am certain that it is the only one possible under the present conditions. It is about preserving not only Ukraine's positive image in international relations but about the very survival of our state. Thank you for your attention.

Zlenko Explains Parliament's Decision on START

LD0402155194 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1411 GMT 4 Feb 94

[Text] Having removed the reservations to Article 5 of the Lisbon protocol to the START-1 treaty, the Ukrainian Parliament has confirmed Ukraine's intention to join shortly the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty as a non-nuclear country. This statement was made by Ukrainian Foreign Minister Anatoliy Zlenko in Kiev Friday at the meeting with diplomats and journalists.

He has said that the absence of the decision on joining the treaty should not be interpreted as a negative attitude to the document. The issue is still on the agenda, believes the Ukrainian Foreign Minister.

The parliament resolution, said the Minister, opens the way to the implementation of tripartite documents on nuclear disarmament, involving Ukraine, the United States and Russia. Zlenko believes that it is planned to hold shortly bilateral and tripartite talks of experts on the implementation of the Moscow documents. He said that the date for the talks is about to be set.

Zlenko believes the parliament resolution will provide the possibility to boost the negotiations with international financial organizations to offer Ukraine effective economic aid. The Minister also pointed to the need to speed up the financial and economic aid to Ukraine.

"I am absolutely sure," he said, "that the treaty should not be an obstacle to providing aid to Ukraine," said Zlenko.

The wording of the resolution's second provision unambiguously points to the fact that the exchange of the instruments of ratification on the START-1 treaty will be the first step. At the same time, he said, the parties involved will negotiate concrete intergovernment agreements which proceed from the reservations contained in the parliament resolution of November 18, 1993.

Asked by Interfax-Ukraine about possible debates in parliament over the timetable for Ukraine joining the treaty, Zlenko did not rule out that the present parliament would also consider the issue.

Holds News Conference

LD0402183294 Kiev UNIAR in Ukrainian 1524 GMT 4 Feb 94

[Text] Kiev, 4 Feb—Ukraine's Foreign Affairs Minister Anatoliy Zlenko spoke at a news conference in the Foreign Affairs Ministry on the attitude of the world community to the trilateral agreement on nuclear disarmament signed in Moscow. This attitude, he said, was absolutely positive, showing the world community's appreciation of the historic step taken by Ukraine. The minister noted that the resolution adopted by the Supreme Council of Ukraine yesterday [3 February] was especially significant, in that the Supreme Council appreciated the steps made by the president and the government to follow the Supreme Council's recommendations contained in the 18 November 1993 resolution.

"It is worth stressing," Anatoliy Zlenko said, "that the Supreme Council, having withdrawn its reservations on Article 5 of the Lisbon Protocol, thus confirmed Ukraine's intention to join the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty [NPT] as soon as possible, as a state that does not possess nuclear arms. This way, failure to make a decision on joining the NPT should not be regarded as the Supreme Council's negative stand on the treaty, but only as the Supreme Council's intention to examine this issue at a separate Supreme Council session."

The minister then said that the Supreme Council's decision clears the way for exchanging instruments of ratification and thus completing the process of the ratification of the START Treaty.

Anatoliy Zlenko told journalists that bilateral and trilateral talks between experts will be held in the near future with regard to the practical implementation of the principles laid down in the trilateral statement and its appendix signed on 14 January in Moscow. In the minister's view, the Supreme Council's decision makes it possible to speed up talks with international financial organizations, the European Union, and the leading Western states on the granting of effective aid to Ukraine for its economic reform.

In reply to journalists' questions, the foreign minister said that only three nuclear warheads had been transferred from Ukraine to Russia so far, due to their unsatisfactory technical condition.

Praises Removal of Article 5 Reservations

WS0402163494 Kiev Ukrayinske Radio First Program Network in Ukrainian 1500 GMT 4 Feb 94

[Text] Ukrainian Foreign Minister Anatoliy Zlenko deemed the adoption by the Ukrainian Supreme Council of a resolution on withdrawing reservations to Article 5 of the Lisbon Protocol to be an important event. Speaking at a news conference held at the Ukrainian Foreign Ministry today, the minister emphasized that an important fact about this resolution is that the Supreme

Council positively evaluated steps taken by the Ukrainian president and Government directed at implementing recommendations suggested by the Ukrainian parliament, which was reflected in the tripartite declaration and a supplement to it. It should be stressed, Anatoliy Zlenko noted, that by taking back its reservations to Article 5 of the Lisbon Protocol, the Ukrainian Supreme Council reconfirmed Ukraine's intention to join the nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty as a nonnuclear state. He also explained that the fact that the resolution did not contain a decision to join the Nonproliferation Treaty should not be understood as the legislature's negative attitude toward the treaty in principle, but as its intention to examine this issue at a separate session. This proves, Anatoliy Zlenko said, that the issue of joining the treaty has not been taken off the agenda.

Defense Minister Warns on Danger of Old Warheads

MK0402131094 Moscow SEGODNYA in Russian 4 Feb 94 p 1

[Konstantin Parishkura report from Kiev under the "SALT" rubric: "Ukrainian Parliament Concerned Over Compensation for Nuclear Bomb. Defense Minister Warns About Possible Catastrophe"]

[Text] Yesterday the Ukrainian Supreme Council tasked the Council of Ministers with "stepping up efforts" to sign specific treaties on compensation for the nuclear weapons to be removed from Ukraine. As for Ukraine's accession to the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty, it was decided to consider the question at a separate Supreme Council meeting. Foreign Minister Anatoliy Zlenko said that "Ukraine has considerably tarnished its image as an international partner by reneging on its promises." Defense Minister Vitaliy Radetskiy sweetened the pill by saying that Ukraine is a powerful space state that will in time be capable of manufacturing delivery vehicles and weapons on its own. But later he said that the storage time of the combat nuclear blocs, where uncontrollable physical processes may begin, is drawing to an end and that "the Chernobyl catastrophe would pale beside what might happen."

Mr. Kravchuk, on his part, said that he received a telegram from U.S. President Clinton on 3 February saying that the United States plans to double its aid for dismantling nuclear weapons in Ukraine.

U.S. Envoy, Rukh Leader Discuss Nuclear Accord

LD0502203594 Kiev UNIAN in Ukrainian 0930 GMT 5 Feb 94

[Text] Kiev—"RUKH-PRESS" has reported that the first official meeting of William Miller, the U.S. ambassador to Ukraine, and Vyacheslav Chornovil, head of the People's Movement of Ukraine [Rukh], took place on 4 February. After the meeting they informed Ukrainian and foreign journalists about the main subjects of the conversation. The opposition leader informed the ambassador in detail about the purpose of Rukh's activity and shared his views on the current political situation. Vyacheslav Chornovil said about the Supreme Council resolution of 3 February that "although Ukraine was not even preparing to become a member of the Nuclear Club, the rate and conditions of forced disarmament were determined without taking into account the interests of the Ukrainian side." However, observed the Rukh chairman, it is still not too late to correct the situation with additional agreements.

Replying to William Miller's question regarding Rukh's attitude to the latest events in the Crimea, the opposition leader stressed that the creation of a territorial autonomy, and moreover, the holding of presidential elections vividly show the incapability of Ukraine's leadership, headed by Leonid Kravchuk, to secure territorial integrity or to build a unified independent Ukraine.

William Miller, the U.S. ambassador, expressed concern at the disappearance of Mykhaylo Boychyshyn, the deputy chairman of Rukh. "His disappearance is a tragedy, and it is very unfortunate that no one is reporting information about the fate of this person," noted the diplomat.

The ambassador did not say a single word about an increase in U.S. assistance to Ukraine after the signing of the trilateral statement, which Leonid Kravchuk and Anatoliy Zlenko spoke about in the Supreme Council on 3 February.

CSCE Delegation Leader Views Russian Foreign Policy

LD0502145394 Kiev Radio Ukraine World Service in Ukrainian 0600 GMT 5 Feb 94

[Text] At the latest plenary session in Vienna of the permanent committee of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe [CSCE] Yuriy Kostenko, the head of Ukraine's delegation, commented on a statement by Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev.

In his speech Yuriy Kostenko especially drew the attention of the representatives from CSCE member states to Ukraine's deep concern that a tendency has recently been discerned in Russia's policy toward increasing the toughness of its foreign policy course, in particular toward the independent states created after the break-up of the USSR.

Notwithstanding the statements on the main new threat to international peace and security, which Russia describes as aggressive nationalism, the Ukrainian representative continued, whether it wants to or not Russia is provoking the exacerbation of this issue and thus is inciting the citizens of Russian descent in other states to expressions of national intolerance.

The speech by the head of Ukraine's delegation was positively evaluated by the delegation from the United States, which interpreted it as an attempt at an early stage to facilitate the prevention of conflicts emerging on an interethnic basis, in particular in the Crimea.

Tarasyuk on Transfer of Warheads to Russia

LD0402192094 Kiev UNIAN in Ukrainian 1415 GMT 4 Feb 94

[Excerpts] Kiev, 4 Feb—At a news conference on 4 February, Ukraine's Foreign Minister Anatoliy Zlenko and Boris Tarasyuk, his deputy, discussed the Ukrainian parliament's approval of the trilateral statement by the Presidents of Ukraine, the United States, and Russia on Ukraine's nuclear disarmament. [passage omitted]

Anatoliy Zlenko said that Ukraine expects $4 billion worth of aid as a result of its disarmament. As regards nuclear arms withdrawal which, according to Ukrainian People's Deputy Valentin Lemish, seems to have started already, Tarasyuk said: "I declare with all due responsibility that no warhead has crossed the borders of Ukraine as yet. Indeed, three warheads have been transferred to Russia for dismantling, but only because of their disastrous condition and in response to experts' demands."

Plyushch Views Disarmament With Envoys

WS0402133394 Kiev Ukrayinske Radio First Program Network in Ukrainian 2000 GMT 3 Feb 94

[Text] Today, Ukrainian Supreme Council Chairman Ivan Plyushch received British Ambassador Simon Hemans. The ambassador delivered a letter from the British-Ukrainian parliamentary group, which states that the British Parliament and Government welcome the trilateral statement of the U.S., Russian, and Ukrainian presidents. Regarding nuclear disarmament, the British parliamentarians voice hope that this statement will be approved by the Ukrainian parliament. During the meeting, Ivan Plyushch noted that it is a matter of great importance to consequently carry out the provisions of the statement by all the states which signed it. At the ambassador's request, the Supreme Council chairman informed him of the essential preparations for the elections to a new parliament. Some questions pertaining to Ukrainian-British relations were also discussed.

Ivan Plyushch today also received Greek Ambassador [name indistinct]. At the request of the European Union [EU] leadership, the Greek envoy presented a letter stating that the EU attaches great importance to the trilateral agreement. The officials also exchanged opinions on the development of Ukrainian-Greek relations.

This evening, the Supreme Council chairman received U.S. Ambassador William Miller at the latter's request. It was noted by the two officials that the Supreme Council has thoroughly examined issues related to the results of the meeting of U.S., Russian, and Ukrainian presidents, as well as to the signed trilateral statement and an addendum to it. Taking into account the practical measures which were taken by the president and the Government of Ukraine, with regard to the implementation of the Supreme Council resolution of 18 November 1993, as well as U.S. and Russian steps to meet Ukraine half-way, it was resolved to remove the reservations regarding Article 5 of the Lisbon Protocol to the START Treaty. It was resolved to charge the Government of Ukraine with carrying out the documents of ratification for START. In this way, the Supreme Council has shown to the world its support for the decisive steps of the president toward nuclear disarmament, [words indistinct], and opened a path for the government to take concrete steps toward carrying out the agreement. Having expressed satisfaction over the Supreme Council resolution, the U.S. ambassador informed the Supreme Council chairman of the intentions and specific steps planned by the U.S. Government to assist Ukraine in promoting the process of economic reform.

China 'Fully Approves' Ukraine's Nuclear Policy

LD0502122894 Kiev Radio Ukraine World Service in Ukrainian 1100 GMT 5 Feb 94

[Text] Ukraine's Ambassador to China Anatoliy Plyushko, presented Dzhou Syau Pey, deputy director of the Eastern Europe and Central Asia department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of China, with the resolution of the Supreme Council of Ukraine of 3 February 1994 regarding ratification of the START I Treaty.

During the conversation, the ambassador emphasized that when adopting this resolution, the successful specific measures taken by the president and government of Ukraine in resolving the problems, which had been the cause of a number of important reservations on the part of the Supreme Council when ratifying START I in November of last year, (?had come to the fore) in parliament.

In this context it was emphasized that the accords achieved by the presidents of Ukraine, the United States of America, and Russia in Moscow, and recorded in the trilateral statement and appendix to it, had created objective conditions for the Supreme Council to withdraw its reservations. It was stressed that the Supreme Council resolution shows the consistency of Ukraine's foreign policy course and its faithfulness to its declared intention to become a non-nuclear state in the future. This peace-loving step by Ukraine will undoubtedly have a positive influence on the whole process of nuclear disarmament.

Dzhou Syau Pey stated that China has an understanding attitude to Ukraine's foreign policy and fully approves of its desire and readiness to eliminate the nuclear weapons located on its territory. He noted that the Chinese side highly evaluated the documents signed by the three presidents in Moscow and considers that the resolution adopted by Ukraine's Parliament on 3 February opens the way to implementing the accords reached by them. Dzhou Syau Pey was also acquainted in detail with Ukraine's proposal to conduct a world peace conference in 1995 within the framework of the UN's 50th anniversary celebrations, and a memorandum on this issue was also presented.

Foreign Ministry Condemns Sarajevo Market Attack

LD0602202094 Kiev Radio Ukraine World Service in Ukrainian 1900 GMT 6 Feb 94

[Text] Radio Ukraine World Service has received the text of a statement by Ukraine's Foreign Affairs Ministry. It says:

An act of terrorism was committed at the Markale market in central Sarajevo on Saturday, 5 February, leaving dozens of innocent people dead and hundreds injured. The Foreign Affairs Ministry of Ukraine resolutely condemns this act of terrorism that has considerably aggravated tension in the Balkans, at a moment when parties interested in the settlement of the Yugoslavian problem are involved in an intensive search for ways toward a peaceful solution to the crisis in the region.

The Foreign Affairs Ministry appeals to the United Nations for a detailed investigation into the tragedy in Sarajevo and urges the warring sides to call an immediate cease-fire, get down to the negotiating table, exercise political will, and do their best to prevent the Sarajevo events of 5 February causing an escalation of military confrontation in the Balkans and provoking a geographical expansion of the conflict.

This act of terrorism once again raises the issue of the need for an all-around examination of the Balkan crisis and a comprehensive approach to its settlement.

National Affairs

Kravchuk Meets Crimean President Meshkov 4 Feb

LD0402151594 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1438 GMT 4 Feb 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Efim Shvartsman]

[Text] Kiev February 4 TASS—Ukrainian President Leonid Kravchuk met on Friday the first popularly elected president of the Crimean semi-autonomous republic Yuriy Meshkov.

Meshkov arrived in the Ukrainian capital after his inauguration ceremony in the Crimean administrative centre of Simferopol.

Kravchuk congratulated Meshkov upon his inauguration and noted that the two have a lot of common problems to discuss.

The Ukrainian president said they should meet more than once in the future, adding that he would like to get first-hand information about Crimea's problems from the president of the republic.

Economic, Political Issues Discussed

LD0402184594 Kiev UKRINFORM in Russian 1639 GMT 4 Feb 94

[By UKRINFORM correspondent Viktor Demidenko]

[Text] Kiev, 4 Feb—Economic and political problems facing the Crimean Republic as a constituent part of Ukraine were discussed by Ukraine's President Leonid Kravchuk and Crimean Republic President Yuriy Meshkov at their working meeting held here today. The main attention was paid to economic issues, in particular, to the pattern of developing economic relations between Crimea and its traditional partners in the Russian Federation and other CIS countries, offered by Yuriy Meshkov.

An agreement was reached during the meeting on setting up a working group of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine and the government of the autonomous republic that will consider specific proposals and calculations of the economic development of Crimea. Also discussed was the mechanism of working relations between the president of Ukraine and the president of the Crimean Republic.

The meeting was held in an atmosphere of openness and constructive mutual understanding.

Meshkov Recounts Talks With Kravchuk

LD0502154894 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1419 GMT 5 Feb 94

[Text] Yuriy Meshkov, the first President of the Crimea (a self-proclaimed republic within Ukraine) elected last Sunday, "optimistically inclines to continue contacts with President Leonid Kravchuk of Ukraine". He said so in an interview with INTERFAX given upon his return to Simferopol from Kiev, where he conferred with President Kravchuk on Friday.

According to Meshkov, his conference with the Ukrainian president passed in a "frank atmosphere" and gave "a new impetus" to relations between the Crimea and Ukraine. Nevertheless he noted that the problems faced by his republic remain the same: The lack of social security, rising crime, the Black Sea Fleet.

For its part, the press service of the Crimean president told INTERFAX that Meshkov had returned from Kiev "satisfied with his talks there". Right after his visit to Kiev Meshkov went on vacation, the press service added.

Earlier the leader of the domestic politics service of Ukraine's president, Nikolay Mikhalchenko, said that the meeting was "open and constructive, and the two sides reached agreement easily".

Judging by the official communique released after the meeting by the press service of Ukraine's president, the two sides focused on economic issues. During the talks they agreed to form a mixed working group representing the Ukrainian and Crimean governments, and discussed a mechanism for maintaining working contacts between the two presidents. Meshkov outlined to Kravchuk a model for developing economic ties between the peninsula and its traditional partners - Russia and other CIS countries.

In the meantime the journalists who saw the two presidents have said that after his meeting with Kravchuk Meshkov looked "depressed".

Economy Minister on Talks

LD0502153694 Kiev UNIAN in Ukrainian 0930 GMT 5 Feb 94

[Text] Kiev—After talks with the Crimean president on 4 February, Roman Shpek, minister of the economy of Ukraine and a participant in the talks, said at a news conference that "the first meeting after the inauguration of the president of Crimea and the establishment of contacts proceeded in a normal way" and with "caution on the Crimean side." According to Roman Shpek, "Crimea has proposed that an economic experiment be conducted with the granting of economic independence to the region's economy, that is, complete self-financing."

The minister of the economy of Ukraine evaluated the desire of the Crimean representatives not as an "economic program" but more as a "statement of intent." The president of Ukraine promised to examine the proposals of representatives of the republic of the Crimea on the basis of economic calculations. The government will be represented by experts from the ministry of the economy, the ministry of finance, the state property fund, and the National Bank of Ukraine at talks with the Crimeans in future

Meshkov Addresses Crimean People; To Visit Moscow

LD0402160494 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 1100 GMT 4 Feb 94

[Text] Yuriy Meshkov, the first president of the Crimean peninsula, was sworn in today. Let us recall one interesting aspect of his career. As a student at the law faculty of Moscow State University, Meshkov wrote his thesis under the supervision of Professor [Valeriy] Zorkin. Correspondent Yevgeniy Novikov reports on how the inauguration of the Crimean president went:

[Begin Novikov recording] The session was opened by Ivan Yermakov, deputy chairman of the Supreme Soviet. He asked Meshkov to come to the rostrum for his official inauguration as president. Meshkov pledged allegiance to the people of the Crimea and solemnly swore to abide by the Constitution and laws of the Republic of the Crimea. After the inauguration ceremony, Yermakov read out congratulatory telegrams to the Crimean president. Telegrams were received from Belarusian Supreme Soviet Chairman Myechyslaw Gryb, from Yegor Gaydar, Grigoriy Yavlinskiy, Vladimir Shumeyko, Konstantin Zatulin, the presidents of the autonomous republics of the Russian Federation, and from Eduard Baltin, commander in chief of the Black Sea Fleet.

Meshkov delivered an address to the citizens of the Republic of Crimea. He assured Crimeans that he would work for the further development of Crimea's statehood. Meshkov also disclosed that he intended to fly to Kiev immediately in order to meet Leonid Kravchuk. After meeting the Ukrainian president, Meshkov will go on to Moscow.

A recess in the session was declared after Meshkov's speech. During the recess, Igor Yezarov, the Crimean president's press secretary, held a news conference for Crimean and foreign correspondents. Among other things, Yezarov disclosed that Meshkov had prepared a number of important decrees, including a decree on relay of all Radio Russia and Russian television programs to the Crimea. [end recording]

Crimean Supreme Soviet Refuses Bagrov Resignation

LD0402155294 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 1500 GMT 4 Feb 94

[Text] At today's session of Crimea's Supreme Soviet, the deputies did not accept the resignation of the Supreme Soviet's Chairman Nikolay Bagrov. Bagrov made his resignation request after Yuriy Meshkov had been elected president.

Crimean Deputies Reach No Conclusions on Referendum

LD0502162094 Kiev UNIAN in Ukrainian 0930 GMT 5 Feb 94

[Text] Simferopol—After Crimean President Yuriy Meshkov left on a flight for Kiev on 4 February, Crimean parliamentarians again raised the issue of canceling the moratorium on the referendum on the status of the Crimea, but yet again it was not even included on the session's agenda. The same fate befell the proposal of Deputy Vadim Kolesnichenko, who proposed that Yuriy Meshkov be granted the appropriate powers to carry out his election promises (entry into the ruble zone, dual citizenship, payment of pensions in karbovantsi, and so on).

A debate only developed during the examination of the resignation statement of Nikolay Bagrov, chairman of the Crimean Supreme Council. His resignation was not accepted. It was decided to examine this issue only after Nikolay Bagrov returns from his vacation, which he took when he lost the struggle with Yuriy Meshkov for the presidential seat.

Crimean Tatar Head: People Do Not Recognize Meshkov

MK0402133094 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 4 Feb 94 p 3

[Aleksandr Pilat report under the "Crimea" rubric: "'Yuriy Meshkov's Policy Is Aimed at Confrontation,' Says Mustafa Dzhemilev, Chairman of Crimean Tatar People's Assembly"]

[Text] Yuriy Meshkov's statement at his first news conference as president of the Republic of Crimea, that the Crimean Tatar People's Assembly should legalize its status (that is, register as a party), otherwise it will be outlawed because there cannot be two legislatures, has worried the deported people. Speaking on an evening program of Crimean television, Assembly Chairman Mustafa Dzhemilev said: "We have repeatedly emphasized that the Crimean Tatars do not recognize the institution of the presidency as set forth in the Crimean Law on the President of the Republic of Crimea." All the more so, Dzhemilev noted, because while adopting the law the Crimean parliament "completely ignored the rights of the Crimean Tatar people—it dismissed without consideration the draft law On the President of the Crimean Republic." The Crimean Tatars nonetheless decided to take part in the presidential elections in order "to preserve peace and tranquillity in Crimea."

Mustafa Dzhemilev recalled that the Crimean Tatars voted against Yuriy Meshkov and said that "any recognition of Meshkov as president is out of the question." The Crimean Tatar leader said further that everyone can see how often Yuriy Meshkov has changed his views: "What filthy epithets he used when speaking about Ukrainian President Leonid Kravchuk, but now he calls him an outstanding politician of our time." The nonrecognition does not mean, however, Dzhemilev pointed out, that we will completely ignore the president. If Meshkov approaches our problems sensibly, we will support him, but, "unfortunately, his policy is aimed at confrontation."

The Crimean Tatar leader said that the Assembly will convene on 19 February: "Some events are going to happen in the meantime, and we will definitely determine our stance on the Crimean presidency and personally on Meshkov." Mustafa Dzhemilev called Yuriy Meshkov's demands that the Assembly be registered as groundless and absurd. "This will never happen. We are in for yet another spiral of confrontation," Dzhemilev concluded.

Tatars Refuse To Take Part in Referendum

LD0702100994 Kiev Radio Ukraine World Service in Ukrainian 0600 GMT 7 Feb 94

[Interview with Refat Chubarov, deputy chairman of the Crimean Tatar assembly, by Mykola Marynenko; place and date not given—recorded]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] [Marynenko] I asked Refat Chubarov about the assembly's possible actions when President Meshkov holds a referendum on the status of Crimea.

[Chubarov, in Russian fading into Ukrainian translation] We have always consistently opposed a referendum on the status of Crimea since such a referendum would be held according to the same mechanism as before, that is, following the will of the majority of the population. We understand that, generally speaking, it is a democratic norm. But the current majority of the Crimean population and its emergence on the peninsula has its peculiarities. That is why the Crimean Tatars have always opposed any kind of referendum here which would decide crucial matters of Crimea's development, ignoring the will of the indigenous people. That is why if the moratorium on referendums is lifted, I can definitely say that we will not take part in such a referendum. [passage omitted]

[Marynenko] I asked the deputy chairman of the assembly whether they are relying on Kiev to protect Crimean Tatars if Meshkov does infringe on the legal interests of the Crimean Tatar people in Crimea.

[Chubarov] Given the present situation and the present composition of the Ukrainian Supreme Council and the current president of Ukraine, there is no relying on that. The events of the past three years showed that Kiev took and continues to take an indulgent attitude toward separatists, hoping, perhaps, that it will somehow bring these forces closer and somehow will cool the separatist sentiments in Crimea. Time has proven, however, that this only encourages them. Therefore, given the present composition of the Ukrainian parliament, there is no hoping that Kiev will protect not only the interests of the Crimean Tatars but even its own state interests in Crimea in a more resolute, but legal, way.

To fulfill Ukraine's state interests in Crimea and to solve the problems of Crimea is impossible today without solving the Crimea Tatar problem.

Crimean Election Seen as Step Toward Return to Russia

MK0502104094 Moscow SEGODNYA in Russian 5 Feb 94 p 1

[Konstantin Parishkura report in the "Peninsula" column under "Simferopol-Kiev" rubric: "Crimea's First President Has Been Sworn In. 'Ukraine' Demands an Assessment of 'Separatist' Actions"]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] Responding to a question from SEGODNYA's correspondent whether the elected and sworn-in Crimean president will conduct talks with the Crimean Tatars, Yuriy Meshkov said: "If the Assembly is a public organization, it must be legalized via registration at the republic's Ministry of Justice. And it cannot be a state body because there may not be two representative bodies in one republic."

For its part, "Ukraine," an association of 40 public organizations and political parties, has come out with a statement on the Crimean events which says in particular that the election of a Crimean president is a violation of Ukraine's constitution and a way of "dragging Ukraine into a restored Russian empire." The statement suggests that the Ukrainians and Tatars living on the peninsula are being subjected to tough discrimination.

The association called on the Ukrainian president, Supreme Soviet, and law enforcement bodies to "give a proper assessment of the actions by the Crimean separatists and take adequate measures to restore law and order in the whole state."

Belarus

KGB Head Views Legality of Strike Call

WS0402150394 Minsk Radio Minsk Network in Belarusian 1300 GMT 4 Feb 94

[Report by Mikhail Rudkowski]

[Text] Today is the last working day of the week for our legislature, while the coming week will be a sort of holiday for our people's deputies. At today's session, several deputies delivered reports on miscellaneous issues. Belarusian Supreme Soviet Chairman Myechyslaw Hryb told deputies about the course of negotiations with Russian experts on the merger of the Belarusian and Russian financial systems. Then, Myechyslaw Hryb expressed his opinion on yesterday's increase in prices for bread and baked goods. He said that the question of who had adopted this decision is being clarified because the government had earlier promised that there would be no price increases in February.

[Begin Hryb recording] We are currently clarifying this issue along with the government. Why has the production of bread and baked goods been cut and who is to blame? We will later discuss this issue. In my opinion, we should control all prices. [end recording]

Later, Prime Minister Vyacheslav Kebich took the floor and said that the new prices for bread and baked goods will be suspended and those guilty will be punished. Then, the lawmakers continued to discuss draft laws. They discussed the draft Supreme Soviet decree on limiting the state's foreign debt and on the use of foreign credits. This issue is very complicated, some financial violations and official abuses have been discovered, therefore the decree should foresee that in the future these negative tendencies be excluded. The deputies decided to continue work on this document.

Later, the deputies introduced some amendments and supplements to the law on investments in Belarus. Then, the Supreme Soviet dismissed Minister of Justice Leonid Dashuk in connection with his appointment to a new job.

I spoke with People's Deputy Gennadiy Lovitskiy, acting chairman of the Belarusian Committee for State Security [KGB].

[Begin recording] [Rudkowski] Gennadiy Mikhaylovich, you had to examine the resolution of the Republican Strike Committee [BZK] on holding an indefinite political strike. What did you learn?

[Lovitskiy] According to the Supreme Soviet decision, the general prosecutor of Belarus has issued a warrant to investigate this issue. The examination of the BZK resolution from 26 January, adopted at a joint session of the leadership of the BZK Council and its Executive Bureau is being conducted. This resolution ends with the following words: All of you should fight against this regime! The resolution is signed by BZK Chairman Zimin. I want to remind everyone that this examination is being performed legally, without any political background, I am categorically against it; we will assess its legality and take corresponding measures.

[Rudkowski] What will happen if the strike is held?

[Lovitskiy] If the strike is legal, it will be held. Currently, there are different approaches to this issue. I do not want to draw any conclusions, we require a legal investigation of this document. [end recording]

Kebich Favors Economic Alliance With Russia

LD0502131994 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1219 GMT 5 Feb 94

[Text] Moscow February 5 TASS—Belarusian Prime Minister Vyacheslav Kebich regards as his main political objective the restoration of an economic alliance with Russia. In his interview with SELSKAYA ZHIZN he refuted allegations that the joining of the rouble zone by Belarus is undermining its sovereignty, or that this decision means a kind of charity on the part of Russia. "In this case those European politicians who are working for the introduction of a common instrument of payment for europe are bad patriots either," Kebich stressed.

In his opinion, the root cause of Gaydar's resignation is much deeper than the problem of signing an agreement on the unification of monetary systems of Russia and Belarus. "In general terms, it could be described as the difference in views between the prime minister and the deputy prime minister over the way the reform should be developed," he said.

The rouble zone will not mean a political and economic alliance, it will be nothing but a common financial and monetary system. According to Kebich, "in conditions of a common monetary system, Belarus will have a chance to follow its own path. The same is true of Russia. We have complete understanding on that matter with Russian leaders."

Premier Said To Want Ruble Accord on Any Terms

MK0502114094 Moscow SEGODNYA in Russian 5 Feb 94 p 4

[Valentin Zhdanko report under the "Belarus" rubric: "Well. Just You Wait, 'Hare!' Prime Minister Intends To Sign Accord With Moscow on Any Terms"]

[Text] "The merging of the monetary systems of Russia and Belarus is impossible without Belarus' losing its independence and statehood," said parliament opposition leader Zenon Poznyak, speaking in the Supreme Soviet. He painted grim prospects awaiting the country, thinking that if it joins the ruble zone: "This would be the capitulation of the Belarus economy and the Belarus state to a more powerful Russian capital and entrepreneurship. Our enterprises and banks would be swallowed up, and the property bought up. In the end, we would remain on our soil, but it would no longer belong to us.... We would turn into a free-ride corridor for the duty-free transit of Russian gas, oil, and raw material to the West."

On behalf of the Belarus People's Front, Mr. Poznyak called the country's citizens to a nationwide political manifestation to demand the resignation of the government, the dissolution of the Supreme Soviet, and early democratic elections. He also pledged support for the free trade unions and strike committees that are preparing a general political strike slated to go ahead on 15 February.

New Belarus Parliament Speaker Myechyslaw Hryb reacted nervously to the opposition statement. He interrupted Mr. Poznyak's address with the words: "We do not need such documents," and ordered the microphone turned off.

In the meantime, the Russia-Belarus expert-level talks on a mechanism for the merger of the monetary systems continue near Minsk in anticipation of Viktor Chernomyrdin's visit. The meeting is taking place behind closed doors. Asked for comments on the progress of the talks, Myechyslaw Hryb replied that they are proceeding "normally, in a coordinated and orderly way." According to reports from informed sources in the Belarus Government, the premier intends to sign an agreement on a single ruble space in any shape, and on whatever conditions the Russian side insists.

Opposition Views 'Surrender' to Russia

WS0402153494 Minsk BELAPAN in Belarusian 1413 GMT 4 Feb 94

[Unattributed report: "Statement of the Belarusian Popular Front opposition in the Supreme Soviet"]

[Text] The Belarusian Popular Front [BNF] opposition in the Supreme Soviet has adopted a statement "On the Current Political Moment." The statement, in particular, reads: "The so-called unification of the monetary systems—being, in fact, an incorporation of Belarus into the monetary system of Russia—is nothing more but an act of disarmament of the Belarusian economy and the Belarusian state in the face of the more powerful Russian capital and business. Our enterprises and banks will be swallowed, our property and national wealth will be bought up. The competitiveness of our goods will decrease, resulting finally in the stoppage of production. We will become an outlet for duty-free passage of Russian gas, oil, and raw materials, as well as a place for arms of foreign army and nuclear missiles." "The question arises," the statement also reads, "why is the nomenklatura government and the Supreme Soviet majority supporting the neocolonialist policy of Russian orthodox imperial circles and acting against the interests of their own state? Because nomenklatura officials are afraid of the responsibility for corruption, 'grab-what-you-can' privatization, the robbery of national property, and the destruction of our economy. To avoid this responsibility, they are ready to surrender their state. Yet the destructive intents of governmental nomenklatura have to be stopped. We should prevent the situation, in which our nation is forced to take up arms and fight for national freedom and independence, as it is done in other countries." The statement underlines that the only realistic and legal action in this situation is a mass all-Belarusian political rally demanding the recall of Kebich's antinational government, the dismissal of the illegitimate Supreme Soviet, and the holding of democratic elections. The authors of the statement also have an understanding of the appeal of the Free Trade Unions and the Strike Committees to launch a general political strike.

Hryb: Domestic, Foreign Policy To Remain Unchanged

LD0402205394 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1910 GMT 4 Feb 94

[By BELINFORM correspondent Aleksandr Lyushkevich for TASS]

[Text] Minsk February 4 TASS—The Belarusian foreign and domestic policy will remain unchanged, newly elected Belarusian Parliament Speaker Myechyslaw Hryb told foreign ambassadors to Belarus here today. The strategic goals are consolidation of independence and transformation of Belarus into a neutral state.

In his words, the republic attaches great importance to a recent visit of U.S. President Bill Clinton which laid down the basis of further bilateral cooperation in the political and economic spheres.

He also praised negotiations of Vyacheslav Kebich and Stanislav Shushkevich with Russian President Boris Yeltsin and Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin. The speaker said further Russian-Belarusian integration with the future unification of their monetary systems is a vital necessity without which Belarus will collapse.

The formation of Russian-Belarusian economic union will take several months due to the need to sign 40 agreements.

Moldova

Snegur Signs Decree on Independence Referendum

LD0402223794 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1950 GMT 4 Feb 94

[Text] Moldovan President Mircea Snegur signed a decree saying that a referendum on confirmation of the republic's independence be held with the participation of all Moldova's inhabitants on Friday. The referendum is to take place on March 6.

Voters will be required to answer a single question: "Do you support that the Republic of Moldova develop as an independent and integral state within the borders recognized by the UN, pursue the policy of neutrality and maintain mutually beneficial economic relations with any state and that equal human rights be guaranteed to all citizens in accordance with principles of international law?"

The Central Election Commission on parliamentary elections rejected the president's proposal that the referendum be held together with the parliamentary elections on February 27. However, the president acted in conformity with the current legislature and assumed the responsibility for holding of the sociological poll.

According to observers in Kishinev, the Moldovan president's decision on the referendum was aimed at discouraging those who support the idea of unification between Moldova and Romania.

Decree on 6 Mar Poll

AU0502135194 Bucharest Radio Romania Network in Romanian 2000 GMT 4 Feb 94

[Anca Florea report from Chisinau]

[Text] This evening Radio Chisinau broadcast the decree issued by President Mircea Snegur regarding the sociological poll titled "Consulting With the Nation" [La Sfat Cu Poporul].

Taking note of the Central Electoral Commission's decision of 2 February, which practically rejects President Snegur's proposal that according to the decision of the presidium of the Parliament of the Republic of Moldova the aforementioned poll should be organized simultaneously with the 27 February general elections, but, on the other hand, considering the stringent need to stabilize the social, political, and economic situation in the country, to create favorable circumstances for the strengthening of the independence of the Republic of Moldova and the ensuring of its territorial integrity, and on the basis of Article 113 of the Constitution of the Republic of Moldova, the president of the republic decrees, I quote the first article:

On 6 March 1994 the sociological poll "Consulting With the Nation" is to be held on the whole territory of the Republic of Moldova. The poll is intended for all citizens of the republic with the right to vote to answer the following question: Do you favor the Republic of Moldova to develop as an independent, unitary, and indivisible state, within its frontiers established on the day of the proclamation of its sovereignty, 23 June 1990, to promote a neutral policy, to maintain mutually advantageous cooperation relations with all the countries of the world, and to guarantee equal rights to all its citizens, according to the norms of the international right? unquote.

The five articles that follow the first one regulate the way in which the poll is to be prepared.

Also today the Central Electoral Commission held a news conference, during which the journalists were told that 1,024 candidates representing 16 political groupings and 19 independent candidates have registered for the 27 February ballot. The commission members also said that 44 technical groups [for ballot counting] have been set up and the voting bulletins have also been confirmed.

The commission members also emphasized that although they had done everything they could to organize elections also on the left bank of the Dniester River [in the self-proclaimed Dniester Republic], as well as in the southern part of the republic [inhabited by the Gagauz ethnic minority], for the time being it is still unclear whether the elections will also take place in those regions.

Electoral Commission Rejects Idea of Poll

AU0402134694 Bucharest Radio Romania Network in Romanian 1100 GMT 4 Feb 94

[Text] The Central Electoral Commission of the Republic of Moldova has rejected the proposal put forward by the president and by the presidium of the Moldovan Parliament to organize simultaneously with the parliamentary elections on 27 February a sociological poll in order to confirm the independence of the Republic of Moldova, Chisinau Television reports.

The Commission justified this decision by saying that it is not entitled to carry out such polls because the only duty of the commission is to organize parliamentary elections.

Snegur Discusses Relations With Romania

AU0502180094 Bucharest Radio Romania Network in Romanian 1100 GMT 5 Feb 94

[Text] At a meeting presently under way today in Chisinau, President Mircea Snegur expressed his opinion about relations with Romania by calling for prudence and wisdom, and preservation of origins in this era of building brotherly relations on the two banks of the Prut River.

The following report by Anca Florea details this idea of the president of the Republic of Moldova.

[Begin Anca Florea recording] As reported, the congress Our Home, the Republic of Moldova is being held in Chisinau today. It has been organized by the Civic Alliance and the Government of the Republic of Moldova. This congress is being attended by almost 2,000 people from various social segments and, as the deputy Prime Minister Mihai Coscodar specified, guests from Belarus, Ukraine, Russia, Greece, Switzerland, and others.

The congress was opened by writer Ion Druta, after which the floor was taken by the president of the Republic of Moldova, Mircea Snegur. In a lengthy speech, the president began by responding to those who, as he put it, want to eliminate such notions as Moldova, the Moldovan language: Moldovan, and the Moldovan people from the political vocabulary.

President Snegur also referred to the Dniester problem and to relations between the Republic of Moldova and Romania. Here is a passage from President Snegur's speech:

He expressed his position, quote: Regarding a problem which, I can assure you, concerns all of us, unquote. And then he continued, quote: I am speaking of relations with our brethren in Romania. The first thing I want to mention is the fact that our blood brothers are living beyond the Prut and we industrious Moldovan people must first develop our relations with them. At the same time, it is my first duty and great honor to tell our blood brothers the following: Brothers, with consideration and respect, esteem and fraternal love, we want to express heartfelt thanks and deep gratitude for the support and assistance you have granted and continue to grant us during these trying times. May the Lord help us to jointly survive in this troubled world. At a time when the danger of wars is hovering above us—from one or another direction—we have this fraternal request to jointly step forth with honesty and courage, careful consideration and caution, wisdom and moderation, dignity and mutual respect, which have to be our guides now, when we are building our fraternal relations.

The historic recollection of sacrifices and losses does not permit us to miss this opportunity to be free. Let us lend our ear to the wise voice of the people and to their desires, which are never wrong.

The Moldovan people no longer want to [words indistinct] and do not want to hear that their country is coveted as a rich land as if it did not have genuine owners, the successors of our ancestors. Our people want good understanding with our brothers as befits nations, unquote.

And now I will continue with another passage of President Snegur's speech:

Let us preserve our origins, not in a bashful but in a dignified way, by not wasting anything that characterizes us as Moldovan. Our people want us to prosper and flourish as equal nations in this world, unquote. [end recording]

Kazakhstan

Cabinet Statement on 1994 Economic Policy

LD0402214294 Almaty KAZTAG in Russian 1400 GMT 4 Feb 94

[Text] The Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Kazakhstan states its intention to carry out in 1994 in a consistent and targeted way the economic policy directed at the stabilization of macroeconomic processes and acceleration of systemic changes to form the open and effective social market economy.

The government will channel its main efforts at curbing the inflation, stability of the payment balance, strengthening of the national currency, decrease of the rates of the production decline, and maintenance of the living standards of the population.

The year 1994 will become one of the most trying years in the development of the country's economy. However, there are all conditions and possibilities for this year to become the last year of the deepening crisis. The government will take all measures to resolve this problem.

Financial and Crediting Policy

The national currency

Since the introduction of the national currency the government together with the national bank have introduced a strict financial and crediting policy aimed at reducing the rate of inflation.

1. To increase the role of interest rates, the national bank in the fourth quarter of 1994 will increase the credit resources share granted by the bank via tenders up to 75 percent. The maximum time period of newly granted loans, with the exception of seasonal productions, will be reduced from a year to nine months and later to six months. The practice of their prolongation will be discontinued from mid-1994. The interest rate of the national bank will be levelled with market rates. The national bank will cease granting loans with interest rates lower than its official interest rate.
2. The government intends to create all necessary conditions to arrange sales of state securities.
3. The government is currently elaborating methods of tackling the problems of debts between enterprises and inoperative bank assets. To improve the system of settlement of payments, the national bank will levy late charges from banks for the delay in crediting customers' accounts. To strengthen confidence in the national currency, gradually the restrictions or limitations with regard of the use of cash will be lifted.
4. The government together with the national bank will pursue the policy that does not allow sharp fluctuations of the exchange rate.
5. The government will take measures to transfer into the country all hard currency revenues earned by exporting enterprises to sell the currency at tradings held by the national bank.

Policy in pricing

1. Regulated prices will be preserved in 1994 for bread and bakery products, millet, semolina, combined fodders, and flour sold instead of baked bread.
2. The government will lift a temporary restriction on the profitability norm for all enterprises regardless of their situation on the market, with the exception of several specialized monopolist enterprises.
3. The government will not take steps that will obstruct the increase of prices for fuel up to the world level. The domestic price for crude oil will be gradually increased during the year.

The budget policy

1. In 1994 the limit of the state budget deficit will be set within the limit of 4 percent of the gross domestic product [GDP]. The government will take all possible measures to cover the state budget deficit at the expense of the noninflationary sources, mainly by selling the state securities and involvement of foreign sources of financing.
2. The government intends to submit for the examination by the Supreme Kenges proposals concerning futher improvement of the taxation system including abolition and reduction of various tax holidays and allowances. The work will be continued to strengthen the tax inspectorate and customs service.
3. The government together with the national bank will cease granting soft loans.
4. The government will take measures to set up a treasury under the Ministry of Finance the main functions of which will be cash regulation of the state budget, management of financial resources of the government and local executive bodies as well as of the state debt.

Measures of social protection

1. The government continuing the policy of social support of the population will change the current system and introduce personalized social allowances system.
2. A system of social guarantees will be elaborated. It will consist of two levels—a republican and a local level. Every citizen of the republic will be entitled to a certain amount of assistance at the republican level, and at the local level additional assistance will be provided depending on the circumstances.
3. The government will restructure the current pension scheme and reform the social insurance fund system, the pension fund, and the fund of promoting employment.
4. The minimum wages will be re-examined after the abolition of all regulated prices for consumer goods and services. The government will aim at balancing the ratio between the wages and rate of production growth.
5. Legal and economic conditions will be created to involve the able-bodied population in economic activity. The program for development of private entrepreneurship will be adopted to increase the goods production and employment of the population.

Policy in the foreign sector

1. The government will make every effort to encourage exports with the aim of overcoming the slump in production and improving the balance of payments. There will be a reduction in the range of export quotas and licenses. As a result, licensing of exports will be carried out only with the purpose of observing the rules of currency exchange, prevention of export dumping, ensuring timely payment of taxes, in the interests of national and international security, and also to preserve the cultural and artistic heritage.

2. The government will undertake all steps to eliminate hindrances in foreign trade. It will strengthen coordination of measures to free prices with other states and join their efforts directed at improving clearing settlements in inter-state trade.

3. All operations with foreign investments will be carried out at a single exchange rate. The government will put on the table for consideration by the Supreme Soviet proposals on establishing a single procedure for registration and taxation for enterprises with foreign participation and national enterprises. The national agency for foreign investments will become the center for gathering and providing information on rules and the potential of foreign investments.

4. The balance of payments in 1994 will remain tense, and there will continue to be a deficit in trade with the countries of the former USSR. Despite the inflow of investments for financing this deficit, in the short term there will need to be additional external financial help. In attracting foreign loans the government will adhere to a restrained and balanced policy. The Ministry of Finance will be the only body authorized on behalf of the government to conclude agreements on external loans or to provide guarantees.

Systemic transformations

1. The program of privatization in all three directions will be continued.

Small-scale privatization will basically see the completion of privatization of businesses in the wholesale and retail trade, public catering, consumer and other services, and also structures linked to them which provide the carriage, storage, and sales of output.

In the framework of mass-scale privatization the distribution of privatization investment coupons to the population will be completed and coupon auctions will be held.

In individual schemes it is planned to sell off a number of large and unique enterprises.

2. The government considers that until state enterprises are privatized, it has the responsibility of running them. In 1994 there will be a reappraisal of the basic funds of enterprises.

3. On the basis of national programs the government will take measures to develop priority sectors of the economy.

4. The system of state needs will be of a temporary nature. It will be replaced by a market-oriented system of state purchases based on the principle of freely concluded contracts and taking consideration of exclusively state requirements (hospitals, state administration bodies, education, and defense).

5. The government will focus special attention on eliminating monopolies in the sphere of the wholesale trade and transport and sales services connected with it, and also in the sphere of foreign trade.

6. The government will undertake all measures to fulfill the set aims, creating the due monitoring mechanisms for this.

In the framework of the declared economic policy the government is open to discussion of constructive ideas and proposals, and is ready to cooperate on this platform with all socio-political movements.

Security Services Pact Signed With Tajikistan

PM0402151794 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 4 Feb 94 p 1

[Anatoliy Ladin report under the "News" rubric: "Kazakhstan and Tajikistan Security Forces Find Common Language"]

[Text] Almaty—According to a report from the public relations department of the Kazakhstan National Security Committee, an agreement on cooperation and collaboration has been signed between the Kazakhstan National Security Committee and the Tajikistan State Committee for National Security.

The sides agreed on joint measures in the fight against contraband, corruption, organized crime, international terrorism, and the unlawful movement of narcotics, psychotropic substances, and weapons. Tajikistan's national security organs will be given assistance by their Kazakhstan colleagues in the training of cadres.

Kyrgyzstan

Akayev Establishes Security Council

LD0402211694 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1930 GMT 4 Feb 94

[From the "Presidential Bulletin"]

[Text] President Askar Akayev on Thursday formed a security council to coordinate activities carried out by appropriate agencies in the field.

This advisory board, as the presidential decree notes, is assigned to draft presidential decisions on republican security, plan anti-crime campaigns, consult the president on the republican health service, forecast and prevent emergencies and eliminate their effects, and advise the president on everything that concerns a state of emergency, including its imposition, extension, and repeal.

The council comprises the prime minister, chairman of the commission for emergencies in the rank of deputy premier, power ministers, national guards commander, presidential administration chief, and president's national security adviser. The board, which will meet once a month, can invite the Parliament's Speaker and other persons.

Conferring with the power ministers on Thursday, Akayev pointed to shortcomings in the fight against crime and said that after the credit of trust from the voters he would spare no effort to restore order in the republic. He gave instructions on drafting decrees to this effect.

Akayev also had a closed meeting with the finance minister, taxation and custom service chiefs, and other officials to discuss ways of collecting taxes and securing finances. It was noted that sizable revenues were lost because many enterprises had been evading taxes. For this reason, Akayev threatened to deal ruthlessly with tax evaders, whose actions, as he put it, "undermine the security of the entire state."

Decree Demands Payment Up-Front for Goods

PM0402172194 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 3 Feb 94 First Edition p 6

[Unattributed report from ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA, ITAR-TASS, and LOGOTIP-KP column under the general heading: "One-Liners"]

[Text] Kyrgyzstan—The republic's government has adopted a decree which requires manufacturing enterprises to dispatch output, raw materials, or semimanufactures only after prepayment by their customers. At the same time maximum timeframes for processing payments—from three to seven banking days—have been set. A fine of double the rate of interest for every day's delay will henceforth be exacted for any holdup.

'Final Results' of Confidence Referendum in Akayev

LD0402195694 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1638 GMT 4 Feb 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Boris Maynayev]

[Text] Bishkek, 4 Feb—The Central Electoral Commission of the Republic of Kyrgyzstan today announced the final results of the nationwide referendum on confidence in President Askar Akayev. The referendum was held on 30 January.

A total of 2,176,000 people took part in the poll. This is 95.9 percent of all Kyrgyzstanis eligible to vote. A total of 96.3 percent of them expressed confidence in President Askar Akayev.

IMF Expresses Concern on Implementation of Reforms

LD0602193594 Bishkek Kyrgyz Radio First Program Network in Russian 1700 GMT 4 Feb 94

[Text] As reported in the press, an IMF delegation is visiting Kyrgyzstan. The delegation, led by Peter Voeller, is providing the republic with technical assistance for the implementation of socioeconomic reforms.

The delegation was received by Askar Akayev, the president of the Kyrgyz Republic.

IMF representatives expressed serious concern over the way reforms were being implemented. It was noted that due to a sharp reduction in tax revenues, a most complex situation had taken shape regarding the formation of the income part of the budget, which cast doubt on the government's ability in the near future to continue paying salaries to teachers, doctors, and other employees paid from the budget.

Akayev thanked members of the delegation for the work they had carried out, pointing out that he shared their concern and expressed his opinion about the issues discussed.

As a result of a dialogue that took place, a certain compromise was reached. It envisages a lower inflation rate, which Kyrgyzstan should achieve by reducing the budget deficit, a stricter credit and monetary policy, and a harsher financial discipline. If these conditions are met, the IMF will be ready to consider a program of further financial assistance on preferential terms.

Tajikistan

Security Minister on New Security Ministry

LD0402164194 Moscow Ostankino Television First Channel Network in Russian 1200 GMT 4 Feb 94

[By correspondent Alisher Khodzhayev; from the "Novosti" newscast]

[Text] By decision of the Tajik Government, the state national security committee has been transformed into the Tajik Security Ministry. What is the reason for this and what will it change in the work of what was once a menacing department? Besides catching spies, the department is currently involved in dozens of tasks ranging from border defense and the confiscation of weapons to distributing bread to the shops.

[Begin recording] [S. Zukhurov, Tajik security minister] We got rid of the words national security. Questions arose because national security implies protecting the interests of only the indigenous nationality, the indigenous peoples. With the formation of the ministry, we shall probably bear the responsibility for the fight against economic crime. Trends like the fight against terrorism, against the drug mafia, against arms smuggling will be stepped up.

[Khodzhayev] Will the functions of the Security Ministry—we shall call it that—include the struggle against the political opposition?

[Zukhurov] We are categorically opposed to such a method of struggle, because, we are seeking all paths, possibilities for dialogue with the opposition. [end recording]

Opposition Group Offers Peace Plan

94P50093A London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 29 Jan 94 p 8

[Report by Ahmad Muwaffaq Zaydan]

[Text] Peshawar—Reliable sources with connections to the Tajik opposition told AL-HAYAH yesterday that the leaders of the opposition have offered a detailed plan to the Pakistani Government to settle the conflict in Tajikistan.

These sources added that the settlement formula was offered by Turadzhonzoda, the former chief qadi of Tajikistan who is the military commander of the [Islamic] Revival Party, the strongest of the Tajik parties, and by Davlat Usmon, the prime minister before the Communists took over the regime.

The formula, which the two leaders laid out in a meeting with Pakistani Foreign Minister Sardar Asif Ali at the end of last month in the Pakistani capital, will be included in a conference in which the Tajik opposition, the government, and representatives from Afghanistan, Pakistan, Iran, Saudi Arabia, and the Islamic Conference Organization will participate. During it, a neutral government will be formed to run the country for a limited time after which general elections would be held. The conference will possibly be held in March in the Pakistani city of Lahore.

Sources near Turadzhonzoda told AL-HAYAH yesterday that the latter suggested putting peacekeeping forces in place from Iran, Afghanistan, and Pakistan to take the arms out of Tajikistan and work to establish security in the country. The sources conveyed Turadzhonzoda's fear that a failure to disarm will lead to bloody civil wars, especially since vengeance is deeply rooted in the Tajik mind and may turn the situation there into another Afghanistan.

An informed source says that all sides agreed on the plan and Asif Ali Khan had presented it this month to the Asian republics.

Uzbekistan, (the big brother) of the Asian republics, aspires to play a prominent role in solving the Tajik conflict, fearing that it will extend to its territory. Some 25 percent of the population of Tajikistan is Uzbek, and there are a million Tajiks in Uzbekistan. For this reason, Uzbekistan is attempting to impose its own counsel on these republics. Uzbekistan also does not hide its discomfort with the presumptuous Russian role in Tajikistan, which has issued its own currency to replace the ruble.

Border Guards Thwart Afghan 'Fighters' Entry

LD0402144194 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1151 GMT 4 Feb 94

[Text] The border guards of the 12th and 10th posts, Pyanj Unit, thwarted the attempts of two groups of fighters trying to cross into Tajikistan from Afghanistan in the early hours of February 4, in one case artillery was used by the guards and in the other, fire from small arms. The groups retreated into Afghanistan. There were no casualties among the border guards, officials in the Russian Border Guard's press bureau told INTERFAX.

In the area patrolled by the 12th post of the Moskovskiy Unit the border guards have thwarted an attempt to build a cableway designed to transport weapons and ammunition from Afghanistan into Tajikistan.

Uzbekistan

Embassy in Moscow Denies Interference in Afghanistan

LD0502191694 Moscow Ostankino Television First Channel Network in Russian 1800 GMT 5 Feb 94

[From the "Novosti" newscast]

[Text] Today the embassy of the Republic of Uzbekistan in Russia categorically denied reports by AFP, AP, and REUTER agencies that Tashkent officialdom is helping units of Afghan General Dostam with military equipment and armaments. The statement stresses that Uzbekistan resolutely opposes any outside interference in the internal affairs of Afghanistan.

Karimov Receives Vietnamese Foreign Minister

LD0602235094 Tashkent Radio Tashkent Network in Russian 0215 GMT 4 Feb 94

[Excerpt] President of Uzbekistan Islam Karimov yesterday received Vietnamese Foreign Minister Nguyen Manh Cam who is in our country on an official visit. Greeting the guest from Vietnam, the president noted that mutual relations with Vietnam have always been of the best kind, and this visit will make it possible to deepen them and take them to a new level corresponding with the interests of our states.

The conversation touched upon questions of Uzbekistan's foreign and domestic policy. The guest was told in detail about the progress of economic reforms, privatization and denationalization of industrial, trading, and service sector enterprises, and also the principles of social direction of the whole program for switching to the market.

Vietnamese Foreign Minister Nguyen Manh Cam thanked the president of the republic for the friendly reception and conveyed best wishes to the people of Uzbekistan from the government of his country. The minister expressed profound interest in expanding contacts between the two states. [passage omitted]

Armenia

Opposition Holds Antigovernment Meeting in Yerevan

NC0402222894 Yerevan SNARK in English 1454 GMT 4 Feb 94

[Text] Yerevan, February 4 (SNARK)—Today 500-people meeting was held at the Liberty Square in Yerevan.

The meeting's participants expressed their discontent with the policy of the current Armenian authorities and proposed changing the leadership of the Republic, that, in their opinions, doesn't have trust and authority among people.

The meetings' participants suggested to the leading opposition party - the Armenian Revolutionary Federation "Dashnaktsutyun" (that published today its programme on Armenia's quitting a crises) to take initiative on the building the National Agreement's government.

In the appeal to this party's leadership, unanimously accepted, Yerevan inhabitants stand for the party "Dashnaktsutyun" presents the National Agreement government's staff at the meeting held by initiative of several social and political organizations.

Businessmen Said To Be Zhirinovskiy Backers

PM0402144394 Moscow TRUD in Russian 4 Feb 94 Night Edition p 2

[Report by Karen Mishikyan: "Prophet in His Own Country"]

[Text] Yerevan—T. Gdlyan, chairman of the Russian People's Party, who is in Armenia on family business, has given his prediction regarding the development of political events. He put forward two possible avenues: "Zhirinovskiy may quite possibly prefer a bloc with the Agrarians and the Communists in order to combat the democrats. But, once it has conquered the latter, the coalition would inevitably fall out among themselves."

Gdlyan believes that there are definite Western forces and mafia structures behind Zhirinovskiy. Touching on the subject of the LDPR [Liberal Democratic Party of Russia] leader's possibly coming to Armenia, he said that he has information that Zhirinovskiy receives financial backing from a number of influential Armenian businessmen in Armenia as well as in Russia.

Azerbaijani Planes Bomb Areas in Nagorno-Karabakh

NC0502195194 Yerevan SNARK in English 1155 GMT 5 Feb 94

[Text] Stepanakert, February 5 (SNARK)—Three war planes of the Azerbaijani Air Force have again bombed this morning a number of populated areas in Nagorno-Karabakh. This time, the Mardakertskiy region settlements in the northern Karabakh were attacked. Victims among civilians were reported to SNARK by the Karabakh Defense Army press-service. Details are revealed.

Meanwhile, military activity continues already the third day on the eastern part of Martuninskiy region. This morning the Karabakh forces were able to reject the attack of Azerbaijani troops. After two-hour fight, the Azerbaijani side retreated to initial positions, bearing losses.

Azerbaijan

Aliyev Interviewed by Turkish Reporters

NC0502101194 Baku Azerbaycan Radio Televiziyasi Television Network in Azeri 1736 GMT 3 Feb 94

[News conference held by President Geydar Aliyev with Turkish reporters in Baku on 3 February; reporters' questions are in Turkish, Aliyev's replies in Azeri—recorded]

[Text] [Aliyev, in progress] ...there are friendly and fraternal relations between Turkey and Azerbaijan. The friendship and fraternity between our peoples have a long and rich history and these ties between Turkey and Azerbaijan have been considerably broadened and developed. However, this does not mean that the level of relations completely satisfies Turkey and Azerbaijan. There is a great potential to deepen and further develop our relations. I believe that these potentials have thus far not been used to the desired extent. Therefore, many tasks await us now and in the future. I repeat that our relations are ones of friendship and fraternity. Our peoples are friends and bothers. However, such ties are given concrete shape by economic, trade, cultural, social, and other cooperation. We have great potential for extensive cooperation in all these fields. I am sure that during my visit to Turkey we will conclude relevant agreements to activate this potential and to better use it in the future, and that such agreements will be reflected in relevant documents and treaties to be signed.

I will visit Turkey at the invitation of my very close friend esteemed Suleyman Demirel, whom we highly respect here. Undoubtedly, I will meet with all the Turkish leaders there. I am also ready to meet with the Turkish people, businessmen, scientists, and those who have an influence on Turkish life. The program of my visit has still to be finalized, but I am ready to accede to other requests outside the program.

I also want to note that I am personally giving great importance to this visit and getting ready for my visit to Turkey with great expectations. I hope that this visit will produce very positive results, and will open a new phase in the development of ties between Azerbaijan and Turkey.

[Reporter Murat] I want to ask a few questions on the situation at the front. You have recently scored some victories. The people mostly ascribe these successes to you. They say that after taking office Geydar Aliyev put things aright. What do you think is behind these successes? And my second question: The Turkic summit has been postponed; will it be held sometime in the future or has it been abandoned completely?

[Aliyev] The victories achieved in recent months in the struggle being waged by the Azerbaijani Army against Armenia's aggression are first of all the victories of the Azerbaijani people and the Azerbaijani Army, which is an inseparable part of the Azerbaijani people. The Azerbaijani people have always been brave and powerful. They have a history of great heroism. The Azerbaijani people fought for their freedom, independence, and the defense of their lands for centuries and have emerged victorious. There have been moments of defeats too. But, history saw the Azerbaijani people survive and has now has seen them emerge as an independent state. All these things were achieved due to the strength, effort, courage, and heroism found in the Azerbaijani people.

It could be asked why high spirits exist now and was absent in the past. It is simply that people should have been persuaded to trust their own strength.

[Unidentified reporter] Could we say that they now trust their leaders?

[Aliyev] You know peoples' history. Turkey's history too confirms that a people must have faith in something. Just like faith in God and religion, there should be faith in the people. Now this faith has been forged in our Azerbaijani people. They now believe in their own strength. And, undoubtedly, there is also trust in the leadership of Azerbaijan. You yourselves can see this. My task has been to make people aware of their own strength and believe in it. We have achieved this aim, and I believe that we will continue to do so.

The successes are the result of the heroism of the Azerbaijani people and the heroic struggle being waged by the Azerbaijani sons fighting in the army ranks. My task as the president and commander in chief has been to guide and shape these efforts, to mobilize the people, to rise the people up, to make them trust their own strength. You are aware that I have been active in this direction in recent months. And, the results are obvious.

As for the summit, it has not been abandoned; it has only been postponed to a later date. The summit will take place.

[Second unidentified reporter] It is being said that in view of the Azerbaijani successes at the fronts and the continued Azerbaijani-Armenian conflict, a summit in Baku would have been construed as support for Azerbaijan, and that is why it was postponed.

[Aliyev] Hmmm. I do not know. There might be something to it, but I am not aware of it.

[Third unidentified reporter] Why has the military cooperation agreement between Turkey and Azerbaijan not been signed yet? Will you take initiatives during your visit to Turkey to sign the military cooperation agreement?

[Aliyev] I do not know why it was not signed. However, we have no such plan.

[First unidentified reporter] The Turkish press reports that PKK [Kurdish Workers Party] terrorists are going from Syria to Armenia by various routes and then are fighting against Azerbaijan. Do you have information to this effect? That is, do you have information proving that PKK terrorists are fighting against you in the Armenian ranks?

[Aliyev] As you know, many join the Armenian ranks in the war against us. There are people from many countries. It could be that they [PKK] too are taking part. But, I have no definite information on this. However, I know that there are soldiers from Russia, European countries, and other countries fighting against us on the Armenian side. We have documents proving this, the prisoners confirm this. As for the PKK members' participation in the fighting, that too might be possible; after all, the PKK has close ties with Armenia. It could well be.

[Fourth unidentified reporter] There are reports that this terror organization is trying to establish bases in Sharur, Dashan,and Devekoy in Nakhichevan. Mustafayev, the former police chief of Devekoy, has declared himself president of a self-styled [Kurdish] region in Shushinskiy and Lachinskiy rayons.

[Aliyev] In whose name has he done that?

[Fourth unidentified reporter] In the name of PKK.

[Aliyev] I see.

[Fourth unidentified reporter] There are reports to this effect. What measures are you thinking of taking against the PKK in Azerbaijan and Nakhichevan?

[Aliyev] As you know, we have not made any decisions against the PKK. When I was in power in Nakhichevan there was no overt [PKK] activity, though they might have carried out secret work in the villages you mentioned. Therefore, I cannot say anything on this subject at this time. However I do know that there is a power line from Turkey to Nakhichevan and they have sabotaged that line two or three times and they have again sabotaged it. Turkey informed us that the lines were damaged by PKK members or by people who had come from Armenia. They cross the border with PKK assistance and carry out sabotage on the lines. At present the power line from Turkey to Nakhichevan is not working. It has been damaged. Of this I am aware.

[Fifth unidentified reporter] You recently met Boris Yeltsin's representative on Karabakh. You had already met with Vladimir Kazimirov twice in Baku. The Turkish press reported that the Russian plan envisages the deployment of [Russian] peace troops on Azerbaijan's borders with Iran and Turkey and in Karabakh. Did you receive such a proposal from Kazmirov?

[Aliyev] I met Kazimirov here. We held lengthy consultations. They put forward proposals for ending the war between Azerbaijan and Armenia. We too want this war to end. However, we did not agree with the conditions put forward. I told Kazimirov that, as we have often reiterated, we favor the ending of the war and implementation of a cease-fire, with the sole condition that the Armenian armed forces immediately withdraw from Azerbaijani territory. Their proposals and our proposals on conditions for the withdrawal of the Armenians do not coincide; therefore, we could not reach an agreement. However, our contacts are continuing and will continue. And if conditions suitable to us are put forward we might accept them.

After all, we do not want war. Blood is being shed and people are getting killed every day. Recently, the Armenian side suffered enormous losses. Armenia was trying to convince the world that the war was not between Armenia and Azerbaijan but between Karabakh and Azerbaijan, but now we have lots of proof that it is Armenia that is fighting and many of its troops were killed while trying to enter Kelbadzharskiy Rayon and some were captured. The same thing happened in Fizulinskiy and Agdamskiy Rayons. Armenian citizens are engaged in war there. We told all this to Kazimirov and we said that we favor peace and the ending of war provided that our condition is accepted.

[Fifth unidentified reporter] What was your condition: Was it the Armenian withdrawal from the occupied Azerbaijani lands...

[Aliyev, interrupting] Yes, their withdrawal.

[Fifth unidentified reporter]... and that there cannot be a question of a cease-fire as long as they do not withdraw?

[Aliyev] Hmm. There might be a question of it, but what we want is that for them to withdraw. There are also conditions for the withdrawal. They cannot anyway withdraw within a day. There are details as to when, on which day, under which conditions they could withdraw.

[Fifth unidentified reporter] Was there a discussion of the deployment of a Russian peace force?

[Aliyev] There are such ideas. However, we did not accept this condition.

[First unidentified reporter] [Words indistinct] could Turkey take part in a international (?peace force)?

[Aliyev] We think that Turkey could take part in it; and Turkey should take part. Turkey must definitely take part, especially when the CSCE observers are deployed here. However, Armenia opposes Turkey's participation, it objects to it.

[Fifth unidentified reporter] Could Russia send a peace force here by itself alone?

[Aliyev] Russia wants this and is trying do it.

[Fifth unidentified reporter] Could Azerbaijani alone [words indistinct]

[Aliyev] As I told you, these are big issues, talks are needed.

[Sixth unidentified reporter] Yesterday the Turkish parliament speaker, the esteemed Husamettin Cindoruk, speaking on Turkish television in connection with your visit, underlined that only democracy befits the Turkish people and Azerbaijan. People from Nakhichevan are being invited to Turkey to hold news conferences on human rights violations. It is being said that you are oppressing the opposition and some political figures are being held in prison, and that there is not much information about their fate. These claims are being published in the Turkish press and the Turkish Government is also talking about the need for democracy in Azerbaijan. What is your approach to democracy and opposition?

Second, Abulfaz Elchibey is living in a mountain village. In Turkey, too, such internal troubles occurred in the past but none of our politicians or elected officials have been forced to return to their villages. That is, one cannot engage in politics in a village; after all, Baku is the political capital. Is there room for some flexibility. It is being claimed that if Elchibey returns here there will be internal turmoil. But, this does not sound realistic. Do you agree that all the opposition parties should freely work in the parliament on a democratic platform? And to what extent are these rumors correct?

[Aliyev] As you know, democracy is not the monopoly of one single person or a group of individuals. Democracy is a global value—Do you understand me, I am speaking in Azeri?

[Reporters] Yes, yes...

[Aliyev] So, you do. I am speaking in Azeri. Democracy is a global value. It does not belong to one or two persons. Therefore, you should not be carried away by wrong information. Yet, unfortunately, here and in Turkey they divide people into groups. Allegedly, a certain group is prodemocracy and the other is not. This is not correct. Democracy has already made its own niche in Azerbaijan. That is, it has established itself. As for my position, I have always been in favor of democracy. Regrettably, even some people in Turkey disseminate negative reports about my person. They say that in the past Geydar Aliyev was a great communist leader and headed the Soviet Union, the Azerbaijani Communist Party, and that he was a general, and therefore he cannot be a democrat. Starting with Mustafa Kemal Ataturk, almost all the presidents of the Turkish Republic were generals. However, no one says that these are not democrats, or that they failed to follow the path of democracy. Therefore, all such claims are concoctions. This is the first point.

Second, you yourselves know that I came to Azerbaijan at the invitation of Abulfaz Elchibey. His sitting in a village is his own problem. No one sent him there. I too sat in Nakhichevan close to three years, and I never said that anyone had forced me to settle there. I simply had no place other than Nakhichevan to go. That is why I went and settled down there. I had no place in Baku, that is why I went to Nakhichevan. They also gave me no means to make a living in Baku. This is each person's problem. I, as a former leader of Azerbaijan and the Soviet Union, never said why I stayed in Nakhichevan for three years. I accuse no one for this.

It was Abulfaz Elchibey who invited me here. I did not want to come here, I came only because he invited me. I was elected chairman of the parliament on 15 June, the day I came here. Since then I have always said: Azerbaijan is an independent state, and I will never allow the loss of this independence. Azerbaijan must walk along the path of democracy. Azerbaijan must establish a democratic and law-based state and society by making use of the internationally accepted democratic principles in accordance with the Azerbaijani national traditions and characteristics. This is the path followed by Azerbaijan. I am also walking along this path. I am also trying to take the Azerbaijani Government along this road. Therefore, claims of violation of democracy in Azerbaijan are lies. Those writing such things in Turkish and Azerbaijani press are writing lies.

The relations with the opposition here is normal. No one is preventing the opposition from speaking. Since my election as president I have repeatedly said that I am the guarantor of democracy, human rights, and of equal legal treatment of the Azerbaijani citizens regardless of their linguistic, religious and political affiliations. I am the guarantor of speech and conscience, and I favor political pluralism. I am in favor of a multi-party system. Here there are far more parties and papers than in Turkey. If Turkey has 10 major newspapers, here there are that many whose names I do not even know. Whoever wants can publish a newspaper.

Therefore, the talk about the strangulation of democracy is totally false. These claims arise from the assumption that allegedly there was democracy when the People's Front of Azerbaijan [PFA] and Abulfaz Elchibey were here. This is wrong. When Elchibey was in power, the interior minister used to beat up the reporters. I remember, once I was watching television in Nakhichevan. The then Prime Minister Panakh Guseynov and the representatives of the National Independence Party were engaged in a debate. Suddenly, the then Interior Minister Iskender Gamidov, he is the leader of the Bozkurt [Gray Wolves] organization—maybe there are also Bozkurts from Turkey too in this organization, I don't know—charged in and smashed the television studio. Could there be worst violation of democracy then this? Yet, Abulfaz Elchibey said nothing about it. If Abulfaz Elchibey or Isa Kamberov [the former chairman of the parliament] were guarantors of democracy they should have punished him that very day, because this was the worst sort of violation of democracy. It was violated in the most gross manner. They beat up hundreds of people in the past and sent them to hospitals during rallies in [Baku's] Azadlyg Square on orders from Iskender Gamidov and Azerbaijani leaders. Why was it was not said then that these were violations of democracy? But now there is not a single person or deputy jailed for his views.

Each person says and writes whatever it likes. There is democracy here. The PFA is not the embodiment of democracy, and democracy does not equal the PFA. Democracy is a larger concept. Turkish democracy draws its principles from international democracy evolved over centuries. I, as a political personality, have always been a democrat. You should not believe that there were no democratic people in the Communist Party. There were such people and they are now active in politics in Russia and everywhere else.

Thank you. I believe that you will work to publish in your papers and other information organs objective and correct information on the present situation in Azerbaijan. Because some Turkish news media and papers publish wrong information. This is not helpful. Everything should be correct. [video shows Geydar Aliyev and reporters sitting around oval table]

Aliyev Absolves Russian Army in 20 Jan Events

NC0402220894 Baku Azerbaycan Radio Televiziyasi Television Network in Azeri 1600 GMT 4 Feb 94

[Text] President Geydar Aliyev received Russian Ambassador to Azerbaijan Valter Shonia today.

Geydar Aliyev noted that this meeting was important because it emphasized the need to resolve problems stemming from existing conditions that concern both countries.

The Azerbaijani president expressed his satisfaction at the recently improving relations between Azerbaijan and Russia. He noted that such relations are in the interest of both countries.

Geydar Aliyev drew the Russian ambassador's attention to the undeniable fact that representatives of various nationalities are fighting in the ranks of Armenia's occupationist army. This shows that the soldiers and officers from the 127th Army based in Armenia are participating in the aggression against Azerbaijan in the ranks of the occupationist troops.

The Azerbaijani president reiterated that despite the extremely tense situation, our Republic favors the peaceful resolution of the problem. Whereas, Armenia not only always undermines peace efforts and fails to abide by the previous agreements, it broadens the scope of the aggression.

The Azerbaijani president then referred to the National Assembly debate on the 20 January 1990 tragedy and said that the position of some opposition deputies, who blame the Russian Army and the Russians for this tragedy, can be justified. Those events were the result of the objectives being pursued by the former imperialism and communist regime. The Azerbaijani leadership at that time was guilty in this incident. Those who put the blame on outsiders want to absolve themselves from their own responsibility in the tragedy.

In his turn, the Russian ambassador expressed his views on matters of mutual interest.

Karabakh Units Repel Azerbaijani Forces' Attack

LD0402141794 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1151 GMT 4 Feb 94

[Text] There has been no active fighting along most of the Karabakh front line, officials in the Karabakh army press service told INTERFAX. Azeri troops in the southeast, however, are continuing attempts at breaking the Karabakh defenses.

According to the press service, Azeri troops resumed their attacks east and southeast of the Karabakh town of Martuni in the morning of February 4. As on preceding days, Karabakh units repelled them.

Azeri aircraft are reported to fly several reconnaissance mission over northern areas of Nagorno-Karabakh Friday morning.

A source in the Azeri Defense Ministry confirmed that the fighting had become largely positional but said that Armenian forces mounted attacks in the north of the warzone that had been preceded by heavy artillery barrages of villages in the Ter-Ter and Geranboi districts of Azerbaijan. Two civilians were killed and nearly ten injured. According to Baku reports, Armenians also attacked in the direction of the settlement of Goradiz on the Azeri-Armenian border.

Azerbaijani Forces Resist Armenian Advance in Karabakh

LD0502144294 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1420 GMT 5 Feb 94

[Text] Azerbaijan's army has been fiercely resisting an advancing Armenian force in northern Karabakh for the second day running. An Azerbaijani defence ministry spokesman reported to Interfax on Saturday that the enemy had been mounting attacks along the Kelbajar, Geranboi, and Terter lines. The Armenian losses in two days of fighting are estimated at 40 men, 2 tanks, and 1 armored vehicle.

On the southern front (down the Goradiz line), according to the spokesman, there have been sporadic battles. Azerbaijani army positions and villages were repeatedly shelled throughout Friday. Casualties are being specified.

Armenian Units Cleared From Kelbadzhar-Mardakert Road

LD0602160294 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1402 GMT 6 Feb 94

[Text] During the past 48 hours, the Azerbaijani army continued to clear the heights along the road linking Kelbadzhar and Mardakert of Armenian formations, the Azerbaijani Defense Ministry told Interfax.

It alleges that the bodies of hundreds of Armenian soldiers killed in action lie in the snow. To avoid epidemics after the spring thaw, the Azerbaijani Defense Ministry's sanitary and epidemiological unit has been sent to the region.

According to Baku, fighting continued yesterday in the southern section of the front near the strategic railway station Goradiz in the vicinity of the Azerbaijani-Iranian border. An Armenian tank was put out of action.

Georgia

Abkhazia Reports Mortar Attacks by 'Armed Groups'

LD0602133894 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1325 GMT 6 Feb 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Irina Shchegoleva]

[Text] Sochi February 6 TASS—"Georgian armed groups made a mortar attack on Abkhazian positions on the River Inguri and blew up a railway bridge in Gali district last night", Abkhazian Prime Minister Sokrat Dzhindzholia told ITAR-TASS.

"In reply, Abkhazian armed forces began to clear the territory of the militant groups. The operation is proceeding successfully," he said.

"There are now 1,500 militants from among Georgian armed groups in Gali district. They fought gun-battles with Abkhazian forces and attacked civilians," Dzhindzholia pointed out.

Abkhazia Claims 'Complete Control' of Gali Region

LD0702124894 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1143 GMT 7 Feb 94

[Text] The situation in Abkhazia's Gali region, where fighting continued last Saturday [5 February] between Abkhazian and Georgian formations, "is under Abkhazia's complete control," Deputy Prime Minister of the Abkhazian Government Vladimir Mikanba told Interfax on Monday.

He announced that on February 7, the Abkhazian army continued to eliminate Georgia's bandit formations. Some of them have been pressed into the mountains, while others have been encircled or taken prisoner. Georgia has lost about 60 men near the village of Okumi.

Mikanba alleged that there had been about 1,500 Georgian militants in the Gali Region, who had been given the order to seize the Gali region and the city of Ochamchira.

He also announced that the Georgian formations located on the left "Georgian" bank of the Inguri River opened artillery fire to support their units stationed in Abkhazia. Abkhazian forces did not open fire at the left bank, he said.

He denied the reports by the Georgian media about the execution of Georgian civilians in the Gali region's village of Bagdadi.

According to sources in Sukhumi, since September 30, 1993, when the Georgian troops had to leave Abkhazia, combat operations in its territory have not been as fierce as they are now. Abkhazians are using tanks and artillery.

Government Accuses Abkhazia of Genocide

LD0702125894 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1228 GMT 7 Feb 94

[Text] Tbilisi February 7 TASS—The Georgian Government made a statement accusing the Abkhazian side that it continues shelling population in the Kodorskoye Gorge, "burning down villages in the Gali district, killing and terrorising local population".

The government received information that dozens of people were shot down. "In actual fact," the statement says, "Abkhazia continues a purposeful policy of genocide and ethnic purge of Georgian population in Abkhazia".

The document lists six villages in the Gali district, which were "destroyed with the use of heavy materiel": Pirveli Gali, Konstitutsia, Rechkhi, Tskhira, Namarkalu and Gumurishi.

The Georgian Government, the document notes, "remains, as before, an advocate of and active participant in a peaceful settlement of the conflict in Abkhazia. At the same time, it is ready to take all measures to protect Georgian citizens now staying in a territory occupied by separatists and their henchmen".

Shevardnadze Grants Weekly Interview 7 Feb

LD0702113194 Tbilisi Radio Tbilisi Network in Georgian 0650 GMT 7 Feb 94

[Interview with State Council chairman Eduard Shevardnadze by correspondent Nato Oniani in Tbilisi—live]

[Text] [Oniani] Good morning, friends. We are presenting our traditional Monday radio interview with Eduard Shevardnadze, chairman of the Georgian parliament and head of state, Batono Eduard, both you and Mr. Yeltsin gave a high appreciation to the signed treaty of friendship, good-neighborly relations and cooperation at the news conference last week. This is really a large, comprehensive treaty, apparently different from all other agreements Georgia has had with other countries. Yeltsin said that Russia aspires not only to friendly relations with Georgia but also to allianced-based relations. Could that probably annoy the West? In addition, the military package of the treaty and other documents stipulate joint guarding of the Georgian-Turkish border. Also signed was a memorandum according to which a drafting group will work out principles of transferring Russian troops to military bases. Could that mean that we will not have equal relations with all countries and that certain special relations have been formed with Russia?

[Shevardnadze] Thank you. Good morning. I would like to add to what I said at our joint news conference and in my other speeches that all the agreements, I mean the major treaty and the package of all other agreements we signed, represent a balance of interests of both countries. We have long been looking for this balance. Work has been carried on for almost two years. The well-known Paragraph 3 of the treaty and its part stating certain responsibilities and commitments Russia is undertaking in connection with building Georgia's Armed Forces was included in the treaty at the last stage only. This demonstrates that during the last two years we were busy thinking about the treaty and wanted to have every word and phrase weighed and selected so that it could endure the test of time.

Of course all depends on how this agreement is implemented. This will depend on the two parties and on processes which develop within the two countries.

Now a little more detail in connection with guarding the border. First, I have to remind you that we are guarding the border jointly at present, too. Or rather, mainly Russian border forces are guarding the border at present. Our frontier troops are not able to guard the border independently, unfortunately. There is neither a material or financial basis for this, nor appropriate personnel. You should be aware that a border is technically rather a complex object. It is not easy to maintain it. This is connected with professions and it will apparently take several years to acquire the skills.

We speak of friendly and fraternal relations with Turkish leaders. I believe we will build such relations with this big neighbor of ours. In future, there will probably be no necessity to guard the border. You were in Turkey when Mr. Demirel said that we have such fraternal relations that in time the border could became symbolic. I agree with him. But, at the moment, the elimination of the border will cause big problems for both countries.

A mechanism for annullment has also been included in the treaty.

We shall create our own border forces. This will probably take several years. Then time will show and we will make a decision as convenient and necessary for our own interests and the interests of our neighbors.

Second, the presence of the Russian troops in Georgia and Caucasia is a fact. Not only in Georgia but in Armenia, in particular. As far as I know, Azerbaijan has a similar approach to the settlement of the issue, I mean the principle of military bases. Speaking of Georgia, we mean a new statute and there really is a compromise. We have found a compromise. The statute of the troops will be founded on the principle of military bases. It will happen in the future because, to be more precise, there is no agreement yet. This is a memorandum about our recognizing the principle and wishing to create an operative group which will work out the issue and get the text of the agreement ready.

Now, where is the compromise? Russia is interested in remaining here on the principles of military bases because we cannot speak of creating a stable infrastructure in one or two years. When we speak of bases, we mean a long stay. No country can be happy at allowing other country's troop to enter its territory. But we can see Russia's interest on one hand and, on the other hand, we have to create an army, a real army. The other side of the compromise speaks in our favor and it will be reflected in the agreement stating detailed commitments and measures Russia will have to take to have our army created. Today we possess nothing of our own. We have no arms, no heavy equipment, medium and light equipment, no ammunition, nothing. We failed to get arms even for the police from anywhere.

[Oniani] There seemed to be certain promises in the past.

[Shevardnadze] We were promised but...[pauses] let us think. If a country can exist without an army we would not make that decision. But an army is apparently a necessity. If a country can exist without the police we would ask the Russians to quit and no talks about any bases would take place. But at present normal formation and functioning of the police and interior ministry troops depend on arms, a technical basis and finances, if you will.

[Oniani] Batono Eduard, sorry to interrupt you but I remember that having returned from Turkey you said at the Tbilisi conference of the Union of Citizens that Georgia will really have its own army which will fight to the last drop of blood for the country and will protect the country's interests. Did you mean that? Did you mean that there would be assistance in building troops?

[Shevardnadze] You know, Turkey, despite the fact that it is rendering immense help to us with credits and other supporting actions, cannot provide arms.

[Oniani] Was it known then that we would transfer to the system of bases and Russia would help us?

[Shevardnadze] Of course it was meant at that time. Along with these factors, the compromise has to be expressed in another thing. Russia and its armed forces should play an active and positive role in the settlement of the Abkhazian issue and in the settlement of the Abkhazian conflict. Only if we see that this positive role is guaranteed, only then shall we sign an agreement.

Now, will this complicate our relations with other countries? I believe that politicians and analysts of other countries interested in Russia's policy in Caucasia and in Russia's policy in general are scrutinizing all this. I do not think this could cause any serious complications.

Turkey could be the most sensitive toward this issue. But I already informed Mr. Demirel yesterday, I wrote to him what we had in mind when signing the agreement. Turkey as well as Russia is most of all interested in a stable Caucasia and a stable Georgia. And the guarantees which secure this stability will be welcomed with understanding by our neighbor Turkey, other neighbors and other countries. So, I do not think that this could have an adverse effect on our relations with other countries.

[Oniani] I would like to remind you of a few phrases said by Yeltsin during his visit: There are forces in our country who want to restore Moscow's role, to restore the empire within its former borders. This tendency is dangerous primarily for Russia itself.

You have expressed a hope that the treaty will not have a fate similar to the two previous ones, meaning the Tractate [signed between the East Georgian Kingdom and the Russian Empire in 1784] and that of 7 May 1920 [between the independent Republic of Georgia and Bolshevik Russia] and it will not be violated unilaterally. You have also said that Yeltsin is the only person who properly understands Russia's strategic interest which implies having a stable and friendly neighbor in the south. In principle, stability is the target Georgia has been striving for for a long time. It can be said that Russia has already specified its interest in relation with Georgia. How reliable are these interests if Russia is not stable itself? Does it imply that the stability of the two countries is of mutual interest for our countries?

[Shevardnadze] I highly appreciate what Yeltsin said in Georgia. Along with the phrases you remembered so well, I would like to draw your attention to yet another phrase. I regard his speech in the Academy of Sciences as a very important one, a landmark in Russian-Georgian relations. There was a phrase like this: Russia is not relieving itself of responsibilities for the fact that agreements on the settlement the Abkhazian conflict failed. He admits it. You have to be a courageous and honest man to say this. One thing is that we said something and we complained but the other thing is that the president himself said it. In fact, he said many significant things during his stay here.

Now, has Russia defined its strategic goals in Caucasia in general and in Georgia in particular? Speaking of the president and his policy and his understanding of Russo-Georgian relations in the long run, I think that the president has this issue well understood. At least, our conversations and his speeches differed from those at previous meetings. I saw that he really understood this.

He persistently stated in his conversations that he interprets Russia's strategic interests in Georgia's being united and integral, strong and friendly toward Russia. I see this in the same way. However Russia's fate develops in future and however complicated the internal relations between various forces and regions become, I believe that friendly relations with Russia are a better shield than confrontation. Even if imperial forces, as we call them, come to power in Russia. In any case, we took a proper step and we did what we had to do. I have no doubt at all that the majority of our population expected the same from the visit and assessed the results in the same way. If I did not have a deep conviction that 70 or 75 percent of the Georgian population interpreted Russian-Georgian relations the same way as I did I would not have signed these documents. Seventy percent and probably even a little more.

[Oniani] After Yeltsin's visit you said that if we had had this treaty a year ago the Abkhazian conflict would have been over. Last week, UN Security Council resolution No. 896 was made public. Abkhazian issues will again be discussed on 8 February. Information has been spread that the treaty will not be ratified until the Abkhazian issue is settled. What is your assessment? What did this treaty bring into the problem of the settlement of the Abkhazian issue?

[Shevardnadze] When I said that had we had the treaty a year ago Abkhazia would not have been lost I meant that Russia would have also avoided a lot of troubles. Russia gained nothing at all from the fact that Georgia lost Abkhazia temporarily. On the contrary, it found far more difficulties near its southern borders in North Caucasia in particular and in the country in general. Russia found certain difficulties on the international arena, too. The international opinion about Georgia is quite sensible and quite objective.

When I said that had we had this treaty ready a year ago Abkhazia would not have been lost and we would have avoided lots of troubles, I said this and I am saying it now for the attention of the forces which even now continue the traditions of that old Supreme Council. I am really sorry that they cannot understand that friendly relations, normal relations between two countries are a guarantee for the settlement of conflicts. If we do not trust each other, I mean Georgia and Russia, how can any issue be settled without Russia's participation? This atmosphere of distrust brought us to the disaster linked with Abkhazia. All these 200,000 refugees, so many lost lives and other misfortunes are the cost of this.

[Oniani] There was a statement by the forces you have just mentioned that if Sukhumi were lost and Abkhaz forces occupied Sukhumi the world would see with whose participation it happened and the world would take our side and return Abkhazia to us. Not only Sukhumi but virtually whole of Abkhazia has been lost.

[Shevardnadze] I would like to say that I meant forces in Russia, too. They criticize Yeltsin for signing the treaty. I speak more to the attention of those forces. Indeed, I speak to the attention of our partners and opponents, too, but particularly to the attention of those forces who state their fundamental position and criticize the president for signing this treaty. I reiterate that Georgia has lost much but Russia has gained nothing. This senseless confrontation must by all means come to an end. And I think that a foundation has been laid for this.

Now, about Russia's role in the settlement of the Abkhazian conflict. This role is in close contact with active participation of the United Nations and European security structures. This is very important now. The use of international forces in its classic form is not ruled out despite the negotiations Yeltsin and I held and despite Russia's readiness to take the most of the commitment on itself. It is not ruled out but I am not very convinced that the Security Council will take a decision of this sort.

[Oniani] Does it mean that international forces should enter the territory with various countries having a definite role, and not only Russia?

[Shevardnadze] There is such a possibility. However, the main factor of the settlement is Russia, anyway. We do not have to be afraid to state this. I believe that this emphasizes not only Russia's role but its commitments. The visit provided us with certain guarantees. At least the president's public statements and what he told me during our private meeting can be considered as a guarantee. Now the main thing is how quickly will there be a settlement of all problems, including and apparently primarily the issue of refugees. Tomorrow negotiations on the statute of Abkhazia are beginning and we believe that the issue of the return of refugees should be submitted once again and the process has to be sped up.

[Oniani] During your meeting with Yeltsin you presented your own model of the settlement of Caucasian conflicts. It was three plus one, that is three Caucasian states plus Russia with its North Caucasian subjects. North Caucasian republics have been against the treaty from the very beginning and joined the camp of the opponents of the ratification. Obviously, Russia has to consider this but Russia has to consider Georgia, too because, as you have said, a disintegrated country in the south next to North Caucasia cannot meet Russia's interest. What does the Caucasian factor mean for Russia, for Caucasia and who will manage this process?

[Shevardnadze] The Caucasian factor is one of the guarantees for the stability of huge areas and vital centers in the south of Russia's territory. Not the only one but a very important one. An unstable Georgia is not acceptable for Russia's national interests. If there are considerations and actions in conformity with the law, Russian politicians should understand this in this way and I believe that the Russian president understands it in this way.

As for starting the mechanism, this needs time. The peoples of North Caucasia will be interested in a Caucasian dialogue. I am positive about that. They are not probably ripen for it today. Let us wait till tomorrow. Some time is needed. And I think that this is not very far off. I have publicly said that the Azeri president, the Armenian president, and President Yeltsin had a positive response to this idea of three plus one, or maybe one plus three, and I believe that it has far-reaching prospects.

[Oniani] And yet another issue which could be considered as important. We have been refused the right to join the ruble zone for the time being, although there has been a fear in Georgia that we would be dragged into the zone by force. How important are those economic acts stipulated by the agreements?

[Shevardnadze] Measures and agreements included in the treaty do not imply imply our joining the ruble zone. As for the issue by itself, they have neither refused nor agreed to it. We have not insisted on it, either. The issue is so significant that it cannot be solved overnight. The principal thing is whether we will be able to strengthen the coupon, to vitalize our economy. Economic agreements signed in Tbilisi as well in Moscow can be considered as preconditions to this. If we find that we are able to strengthen the coupon there will be no need to speak of the possibilities of joining the ruble zone.

Important measures have been planned for this week. These include an assessment of the results of the last year, plans and targets for the current year, discussion of a program of surviving the crisis—but the main issue is strengthening the coupon. We shall consider and discuss this issue at every level, at the government level, with my participation, without my participation. Then parliament will take up the issue and in a certain time we may be able to give a definite answer to the question whether we need the ruble zone.

[Oniani] Batono Eduard, yet another explosion resulted in the killing of Deputy Defense Minister Nikoloz Kekelidze in Tbilisi last week. The idea is circulating that some state or government structures were involved in this incident to some extent. First, could you please comment on this. And another question. The mass media reported the resignation of Defense Minister Georgiy Karkarashvili. Have you any information for us on this issue?

[Shevardnadze] As for the death of Mr. Kekelidae, it is most deplorable. I was rather distressed. Similarly deplorable was an assassination in Rustavi a week ago, as well as the brutal killing of two police officers in Tbilisi the other day. As you know, the killing of Kekelidze coincided with the date of the Yeltsin's visit. It happened at 0330 and the visit was beginning in the morning.

But I do not think that any state structure, even if there is a bandit terrorist group in it, would time this horrible crime to coincide with a crucial day like this. I have read a statement by one of the parties mentioning state terrorism and implying that we could be dealing with the state terrorism. Speaking of state terrorism and somehow linking this event with it is to my mind a very worrying fact in itself. A politician who admits the possibility of the state's involvement in terrorist acts so easily, is probably not far from implementation of an idea like this if we permit him to manage any state structure—or if the people elect him to manage a state structure. I cannot simply bear the thought that the state has chosen the path of terrorism in Georgia today. Whoever assumes such a possibility may be brooding over this idea himself.

As for Karkarashvili's resignation, I could not see him and I will meet him soon. His resignation letter is rather categorical and I do not think that it was written rashly because the demand to let him resign is so categorically stated. I have not made any decision yet. We shall meet in two or three days and the final decision will of course be made public.

[Oniani] And finally another question. I would like to return to Yeltsin's visit. The ceremony of meeting him and other matters were organized in such a normal way that we experienced a feeling of a sort of statehood. We felt that we were citizens of a state. Tomorrow, 8 February, we celebrate the memorial day of Davit Aghmashenebeli [12th Century Georgian king], a Georgian king to whom the idea of Georgia's statehood is linked. During your meeting with Kutaisi citizens yesterday you said that a new stage of the national movement was beginning, a new era which could be called an era of commitments, commitments to one's own country because this is your state and it does not belong to someone else. Youth has a special role in this.

Finally, restoration work is being carried out at the shrine to Bagrati [first Georgian king to unite Georgia in 11th Century] in Kutaisi, which can be considered a symbol of the unity of the Georgian people. Do you think Bagrati will become a real symbol of unity or it will remain a mere symbol?

[Shevardnadze] You are right. The reception of a high level visitor like Yeltsin is not easy for the country in such a disastrous situation. This is linked with lots and lots of factors. As we saw Mr. Yeltsin off and the plane took off I told one of my colleagues that we were beginning to resemble a state. It really meant a lot.

I met with citizens of Kutaisi yesterday. You could see some people from Tbilisi, too, but there were mostly visitors from Kutaisi headed by Kutaisi Mayor Temur Shashiashvili. And I really spoke of a new stage of national commitments. What is being done in Kutaisi can be considered as one of the links in this. I am aware that a lot is being done in Tbilisi, in Ajaria, in other regions. But this is a Kutaisi citizens' initiative. I have welcomed this initiative. It is a magnificent initiative. The Bagrati temple and the name of Bagrati should be connected with the struggle for unity, not merely symbolically but truly and meaningfully. It should give an impetus to a new stage of a new real national movement for the unity of Georgia.

There is a proposal to celebrate the 1,000th anniversary of integrated Georgia next year and I fully support the idea. I think that if we manage it adequately it will mean the return to the path taken by Bagrat and the great Davit—not in words and only at anniversary times and not with loud festivities. We have to move forward and build, following in their footsteps. We have to move along the road of building and not of destruction. This is the road we have to take. I understand this in this way. If I have the tiniest chance I will visit Gelati [monastery in Kutaisi where King Davit is buried] and kneel before Davit the Builder's tomb, not because I want to connect it with a sort of populism but to appeal to my people that we have to advance together along the road of building and that it was not by accident that our people gave great Davit the name of Builder.

Authorities Concerned Over Russian Troop Presence

NC0402222294 Yerevan SNARK in English 1316 GMT 4 Feb 94

[Text] Tbilisi, February 4 (SNARK)—At the meeting with the leadership of the Russian Defence Department the representatives of the Georgian delegation put a question on additional redistribution to Georgia the additional content of Russian troops within the intermediary mission, Colonel Pavel Flyagin [name as received], the expert of the Transcaucasia Ethnic Relations of the Russian Defence Department, told SNARK.

According to Flyagin, Armenia also is interested in the Russian troops presence on her territory. Mr. Flyagin said the Armenian President Levon Ter-Petrosyan discussed the problem at the recent negotiations with the Heads of the Group of the Russian Troops in Transcaucasia.

Speaking on the results of the negotiations which took place between military Heads of Russian and Georgia, Pavel Flyagin informed of the meeting's agenda - the sides discussed on the legal and other kinds of guarantees for the Russian soldiers as the latter are waiting for the solution of their social, life and other problems. Mr. Flyagin hopes the sides will do their best to solve the problems in the coming future.

Most Georgians Support Russian-Georgian Treaty

LD0402203994 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1752 GMT 4 Feb 94

[Text] Most Georgians support concluding the Russian-Georgian treaty on friendship, cooperation and good-neighborly relations signed by Russian President Boris Yeltsin and Georgian leader Eduard Shevardnadze in Tbilisi yesterday.

According to an opinion poll conducted by the sociological service of the Georgian agency BS-Press, a total of 91% of respondents support signing the treaty, while only 4% said they do not. Five percent of those asked abstained from answering the question.

A total of 73.4% of Georgians believe that the treaty will play an important part in the settlement of the armed conflict in Abkhazia, while 11.9% were skeptical about that and another 14.7% found it difficult to answer.

As many as 59% of those asked believe that deploying Russian troops in Georgia on Russian conditions (3 military bases in the republic) is in Georgia's interests, while 19.2% are categorically against the deployment. Another 21.8% said they were too incompetent in such issues to provide any answer.

During the poll, 10 out of 500 said this was the first that they had heard that Yeltsin had visited Georgia.

Shevardnadze Calls Yeltsin's Visit 'Historic'

LD0402184894 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1752 GMT 4 Feb 94

[Text] Georgian leader Eduard Shevardnadze has described as historic the visit to Tbilisi February 3 by Russian President Yeltsin.

Addressing in Tbilisi Friday the conference of the Union of Georgian Citizens, he said that the signed agreements would provide results shortly.

Shevardnadze called groundless the fears by certain forces in Russia and Georgia that the treaty of friendship and cooperation between the two countries may destabilize the situation in the North Caucasus. The Georgian leader said that the treaty had been signed for a ten year period, and if one of the sides did not demand its annulment, it would be extended automatically.

Speaking about the possible creation in Georgia of Russian military bases, Shevardnadze said that the problem was not yet solved. At the talks, he said, the two sides only agreed on forming expert teams to consider the problem.

Answering the question on circumstances behind the death Thursday in Tbilisi of deputy Georgian Defense Minister Niko Kekelidze, the Georgian leader said that the act of terrorism (Kekelidze died following an explosion in his house) was not committed for political reasons. Organized crime is behind the murder.

Speaking about the resignation of Georgian Defense Minister Georgiy Karkarashvili, Shevardnadze said that he would meet him and ask him to explain the reasons.

Public Polled on Results of Yeltsin Visit

LD0602132594 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1100 GMT 6 Feb 94

[By correspondent M. Vardzelashvili from Tbilisi]

[Text] The reaction in political circles and among the population in Georgia to Boris Yeltsin's visit to the republic is not unequivocal. However, most politicians and inhabitants of Georgia assess positively the signing of the bilateral treaty with Russia.

The Department for Sociological Studies at the Georgian Academy of Sciences and also leading republic's newspapers have published the results of the sociological poll of the population following the Russian president's visit to Georgia.

According to the poll results, 67 percent of respondents assess positively the normalization of Russian-Georgian relations; 10 percent of those polled view the visit by the Russian delegation negatively. As for the rest, they find it difficult to define their position.

At the same time, 90 percent of respondents believe the establishment of good-neighborly relations with Russia is in Georgia's state interests.

Grachev on Military Bases, Forces in Georgia

MK0502101094 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 5 Feb 94 p 3

[Tengiz Pachkoriya report under the "Georgia" rubric: "Question of Russian Military Bases Resolved. Peacekeeping Will Cost Moscow a Lot"]

[Excerpt] As reported, during Russian President Boris Yeltsin's official visit to Georgia, representatives of the Russian and Georgian sides signed the agreement "On the Status and Conditions of Functioning of the Russian Federation Border Troops Staying on the Territory of the Republic of Georgia." Pavel Grachev said in an interview to Georgian journalists that a protocol of intention concerning Russian bases in Georgia was also signed during the visit. In his words, it is planned to set up three bases: in Tbilisi (in the Vaziani area), Akhalkalaki, and Batumi. The Batumi military base, Grachev said, would have branches in Poti, Sukhumi, and Gudauta. The bases will rely only on the Russian troop units in the Transcaucasus that are currently deployed in the areas. Pavel Grachev's last statement refutes recent rumors that Russian military units leaving Germany will allegedly be moved to Abkhazia and other Georgian regions. According to Grachev, warships of the Black Sea Fleet are planned to be stationed in the Poti area. All the bases will be set up by 1 July 1994.

In his interview for the SVOBODNAYA GRUZIYA newspaper, which was published 4 February, Pavel Grachev said with regard to the military bases' objectives: "The objectives of these military bases are to ensure the security of Russia and the states of the Transcaucasus region that are parties to the Collective Security treaty. When asked whether the question of border troops was resolved, Pavel Grachev noted that the existing border between Georgia and Russia will not be moved. Regarding the resubordination of Russian troops deployed in Abkhazia to General Reut, commander of the Group of Russian Forces in the Transcaucasus, the Russian defense minister remarked that all troops staying in Georgia are subordinated to Reut except for the 345th Airborne Regiment, which, according to Grachev, is a regiment subordinate directly to the Russian defense minister and remains his strategic reserve. Answering a question by SVOBODNAYA GRUZIYA's correspondent about to whom the Russian troops that will serve as peacekeeping forces in Abkhazia will be subordinated and who will finance them, the defense minister said: "These troops are under the command of Colonel General Georgiy Kondratyev. As for financing, this is a painful question. We still do not have a UN Security Council mandate for Russian troops to carry out peacekeeping missions in the former USSR countries, for them to be peacekeepers under UN aegis. This is why they do not pay us and we have to bear all the costs on our own. Nonetheless we do not give up our mission, seeing Georgia as a single body." [passage omitted]

Officials Regret Refusing Grachev Troop Offer

LD0402141494 Tbilisi IBERIA in Georgian 1200 GMT 4 Feb 94

[Text] Tbilisi, 4 Feb—According to the IBERIA news agency, representatives of the Georgian side told Russia's Defense Minister Pavel Grachev, during his visit to Tbilisi, that Georgia had earlier made a mistake by not accepting his offer to introduce two Russian divisions and a brigade into the Abkhaz region.

Further Cooperation Planned With Turkey

LD0502104194 Tbilisi Radio Tbilisi Network in Georgian 0900 GMT 5 Feb 94

[Text] Recently, the Georgian minister of agriculture and food production and the Turkish minister of agriculture and rural affairs signed a protocol on technical, scientific, and economic cooperation between the two ministries in Ankara. It contains four paragraphs and stipulates the extension of cooperation in the spheres of agriculture, food production, cattle-breeding, and fisheries. Our correspondent Dilar Jvebenava has been told at the ministry that Turkish experts are expected to visit in the very near future and will carry out research of conditions for cooperation. This will be followed by a return visit by our delegation. Thus, partnership with a neighbor is useful, especially with Turkey as a wealthy, politically stable, and economically strong country, which is in line with European standards and where the Georgian diaspora is best represented.

Estonia

Minister on 'Partnership for Peace' Expectations

LD0402163294 Tallinn Radio Tallinn Network in Estonian 1800 GMT 4 Feb 94

[Excerpt] A NATO mission is currently on a tour presenting in more detail the opportunities available through and the aims of the Partnership for Peace [PFP] program. The mission wants to present a clear picture of how prepared different countries are to take part in the program. Today, the NATO mission is in Estonia. Urmas Loit reports.

[Begin recording] [Loit] Joining the Partnership for Peace program is Estonia's first step towards becoming a full member of NATO. This was said at a news conference today, given by the NATO mission, which is presenting to Estonia the principles and opportunities of the partnership program. NATO representatives had a meeting with Defense Minister Indrek Kannik; Defense Forces Commander Aleksandr Einseln; Peeter Lorents, Riigikogu's state defense commission's deputy chairman; and Foreign Ministry Chancellor Alar Olljum. Defense Minister Indrek Kannik will sum up what was said.

[Kannik] During the meetings today, the Estonian side has been speaking about the aspects we ourselves consider most important in the PFP program. Talking about the political aspects, one must emphasize a consultations mechanism included in the PFP program. We consider the possibility of holding political consultations with NATO—in a situation of a serious crisis—extremely necessary in our view, and we see it as an essential mechanism.

The Estonian side has been talking at today's meetings also about the need for military cooperation. It is precisely joint exercises we have in mind here. Of course, in this context the question will arise immediately as to how Estonia can pay for her expenses. As is known, the PFP program states very clearly that both parties, NATO as well as a NATO partner, must pay for their own expenses. But I believe that here, too, solutions are possible. For example, even in the course of the discussions today our colleagues, our friends from NATO suggested that some exercises may take place on Estonian territory that would substantially reduce our expenses. We also consider the opportunity to have Estonian officers trained very important for us within the PFP program.

[Loit] A Defense Ministry, the defense forces headquarters, and the Foreign Ministry working group will be drawing up the Estonian view of concrete cooperation within the next couple of months. Evidently as early as the second half of February another NATO mission will arrive to advise our politicians. [end recording] [passage omitted]

Foreign Affairs Minister on Plan

WS0402201694 Tallinn ETA in English 1847 GMT 4 Feb 94

["ETA News Release"]

[Text] Tallinn, February 4—Estonian Minister of Foreign Affairs Juri Luik, after signing the Partnership for Peace Programme in Brussels, on Thursday [3 February], arrived at a one-day official visit to Finland, on Friday.

Luik met Finnish Prime Minister Esko Aho, with whom he discussed Estonian-Finnish economic relations and Finnish President Mauno Koivisto. Luik had a longer meeting with his Finnish counterpart Heikki Haavisto. Under discussion were bilateral and international relations, agreements, juridical and economic issues. Minister Luik also explained the background of joining the Partnership for Peace programme.

Luik gave a press conference in Helsinki, on Friday, where he said that besides signing the Partnership for Peace programme he also met Foreign Relations Commissioner of the European Union Hans van der Broek in Brussels, with whom he reached an agreement that concluding free trade agreement between Estonia and European Union should be on the agenda this summer.

Commenting on the Partnership for Peace Programme Luik said that the direct importance of the agreement lied in the fact that "NATO was not indifferent towards Estonia". Estonia needs help in development of defence forces, juridical questions and formation of the Baltic peacekeeping battalion and in these areas NATO is ready to support Estonia, he added.

Luik said that Estonia will apply for full membership of NATO when "time was rife" for it. The three Baltic states will cooperate on the issue, and will apply for the membership together, Luik said.

Luik arrived back to Estonia Friday evening.

Minister Luik Accuses Russia of Breaking Promise

LD0402135894 Tallinn Radio Tallinn Network in Estonian 1800 GMT 3 Feb 94

[Interview with Estonian Foreign Minister Juri Luik by an unidentified correspondent in Brussels on 3 February—recorded; monitored in progress]

[Excerpts] [Luik] [passage omitted] Yesterday [2 February], I also had a meeting with Mr. [Hans] Van der Broek, the European Union's foreign affairs commissioner. This was also an exceptionally successful meeting. We discussed mainly Estonia joining the European Union via an association agreement.

[Correspondent] A document has now been signed, but what steps are now expected from us? What do we need to do to be suitable partners to NATO, so to speak?

[Luik] A suitable partner must present a document about our major needs for the building of the defense forces in Estonia. Work on drafting this document has already begun in Tallinn. A corresponding NATO team is in Tallinn today to provide us with preliminary advice on composing such a document. Then we will put this document together—our Foreign and Defense Ministries. We will definitely also involve members of parliament and experts. The document must fairly precisely list the needs existing for the Estonian defense forces at the moment. NATO will then select the aspects where it can provide support.

[Correspondent] Did this unfortunate fact also come up in your discussions—that the Estonian-Russian round of talks, from which quite a lot was in fact expected—ended, in essence, with a fat zero? A timetable for the troop withdrawal was not presented.

[Luik] Yes, this came up at the European Union, as well as at NATO. I also spoke about this to journalists at a news conference. This is, of course, extremely unfortunate, and everybody I met expressed amazement that the Russian side had failed to produce the relevant documents. At the moment, it seems that the Russian side is violating one of its basic promises, not to link the troop withdrawal to any other issues. A clearly evident link has been made between the troop withdrawal and the fate of military pensioners. This is a link we cannot accept, and this is what I have also said here in Brussels.

Government Accepts 31 Aug for Withdrawal Deadline

LD0402204194 Tallinn Radio Tallinn Network in Estonian 2000 GMT 3 Feb 94

[Text] Before today most talk about the Estonian-Russian talks focused on the fact that the Russian side failed to present a timetable for its troop withdrawal. Some other aspects have come to light today, however. In fact, in the course of the 16th round of the Estonian-Russian talks an agreement on the troop withdrawal from Estonia was almost completely agreed upon. For the first time Estonia agreed officially to the Russian proposal for the troops to be withdrawn by 31 August of this year. This has been stated by Juri Kahn, Estonian ambassador to Russia. According to Kahn the only point in the agreement that remains unresolved is the issue of financial compensation. This will have to be regulated at the level of heads of state. The Russian side has, however, (?stipulated) that they would agree to holding a summit only once the Estonian side has ensured social protection for the Russian military pensioners in Estonia, according to the conditions set by Russia.

Considerable progress at this round of Estonian-Russian talks was achieved also concerning issues on dismantling the nuclear reactors at Paldiski. According to ETA this was stated by Mark Sinisoo, leader of the Estonian delegation's working group on Paldiski and an adviser at the Foreign Ministry, at a news conference today. According to him success achieved at the talks in Moscow resulted directly from the conclusions made at the conference held last week in Stockholm on the issue of Paldiski.

Retired Russian Military Said Threat to Security

WS0702121794 Tallinn BNS in English 1346 GMT 5 Feb 94

[Text] Tallinn, Feb 04, BNS—More than ten thousand retired Russian military who live in Estonia constitute a threat to the country's security, a member of the Estonian delegation for talks with Russia said in a press conference.

Ago Tiiman, secretary of the Estonian delegation, said data provided by Russia shows the number of former Russian Military in Estonia at 10,570. A total 850 of them have been discharged and are part of Russia's military reserve. The rest are retired personnel. The Russian Military born before 1930, numbering 4,345 in Estonia, are eligible to apply for a permanent residence permit. The rest of the former military are younger than 63.

"I contest the claims that a reserve officer of 50-60 years of age doesn't constitute any threat to Estonia," Tiiman said.

He said Russia with the topic of retired military was attempting to create an artificial obstacle on the way of negotiations.

The Russian side at the last round of negotiations, which ended Wednesday [2 February], refused to turn over to Estonia a timetabe for the withdrawal of troops, accusing Estonia of unwillingness to sign a social guarantees agreement for the former Russian Military living in the country.

Tiiman said Russia was unable to understand Estonia's worries about the topic of the retired military.

"When I told Russian generals that also Estonia was having its national interests, they opened their eyes wide and asked what sort of a thing was that," Tiiman added.

He said Russia's conditions concerning the social welfare guarantees to retired military included a demand to make changes in the Estonian legislation. At the same time Russia doesn't agree to a scheme of determining the size of pensions for the military by indexation.

Tiiman said the Russian Army pensioners in Estonia were getting big pensions, as Russia still continues payment of the money under the 1992 exchange rate of 10 roubles to the Estonian kroon. The current rate is more than 110 roubles to the kroon.

If Russia starts payment under the current exchange rate, the size of pensions would drop below the subsistence minimum in Estonia and the Baltic country would have to pay an additional allowance to the former Russian Military.

Latvia

Official: Bilateral Ties With NATO States Needed

WS0702123694 Tallinn BNS in English 1441 GMT 7 Feb 94

[Text] Riga, Feb 04, BNS—Latvia should establish bilateral relations with concrete NATO member states while taking the first steps of cooperation with the alliance, said Janis Miodle, Latvian delegation head for talks with NATO, following his return from Brussels Friday [4 February].

Latvia lacks money to build and arm its company in the projected Baltic Peacekeeping Battalion and begin a higher-level cooperation with the North Atlantic Treaty Alliance.

Currently, it is important to clear out which countries would like to cooperate with Latvia to tackle the mentioned problems, Miodle said. This work could be done by a Latvian permanent envoy to NATO.

Real cooperation is even more important than simply assistance, Miodle noted. The cooperation should be oriented toward Latvia's eventual NATO membership.

Commenting on the Brussels visit, Miodle said NATO officers primarily wanted to know what Latvia concretely expected from Partnership for Peace and how realistic were declarations by Latvian leaders on their country's intention to join the program.

The Latvian Defense Ministry delegation toured Brussels Feb. 2-3 at an invitation by NATO. During the trip, the group visited NATO, NATO Supreme Headquarters of Allied Powers in Europe and the North Atlantic Assembly.

Foreign Minister Favors Russian Plan for Skrunda

MK0502143094 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 5 Feb 94 p 3

[Unattributed report in the "In Brief" column]

[Text] Latvia's Foreign Affairs Minister Georg Andreyev said that the Latvian delegation to the talks with Russia should agree to the plan which will probably be proposed by the Russian side in the course of the next round.

Russia's intention to seek compromise, which came as a result of a meeting in Moscow between Russian Government representatives, U.S. President Bill Clinton, and the Latvian delegation led by Andreyev, was announced in Washington by U.S. Administration officials. Under the new plan, the radar station in Skrunda will operate for another four years and will then be dismantled within 18 months.

At present, however, Russia's position adopted during the previous round is still valid at the current Latvian-Russian intergovernment negotiations, whereby the operation of the Skrunda radar will be extended for five years. Officially Russia has not as yet advised Latvia about a change of position.

According to Andreyev, it is still not clear how this issue will be decided. The Latvian delegation's mandate may be changed only after this issue has been studied by the leadership, for example, the Saeima's Interfactional Council. The minister said that to prevent an indefinite delay in its resolution, this question should not be discussed at a plenary Saeima session.

Parliament Approves Budget for 1994

WS0702121394 Tallinn BNS in English 1346 GMT 5 Feb 94

[Text] Riga, Feb 04, BNS—The Latvian Saeima (parliament) adopted the 1994 state budget act late Thursday [3 February] night and the president announced its enactment beginning with Jan. 1, 1994.

The state will spend 593,411,853 lats in 1994, while the projected incomes are 556,704,800 lats. Lawmakers also approved a 40-million-lat budget deficit.

The parliament plans to cover the deficit from direct borrowings, foreign credits and internal loans.

The maximal admissible amount of total state debts was fixed at 331,254,000 lats. From this, the internal debt may reach 79,984,000 lats and the outer debt may reach 251,270,000 lats.

The government may guarantee 20,730,000 million lats in 1994.

The state treasury turnover funding was calculated at 5 million lats.

The parliament assigned additional funding for the defense, health care, culture, science and television.

The legislator decided against increasing funding for families with children. This issue will be considered during the fiscal year. Environmental education programs, Agriculture Ministry's kindergartens and state radio were also denied a funding increase.

The local budgets' levelling fund will consist of 90,213,861 lats. From this, 58,232,361 are state subsidies and 31,981,500 will be channelled to the fund for levelling of residents' incomes

Lawmakers cut the reserve for the implementation of the civil service reform from 5 million lats to 4 million lats.

The budget also provides to increase the payment of taxes into the Venstpils city budget from 20 percent to 40 percent. Consequently, 60 percent of taxes will flow into the local budgets levelling fund.

All amendments to the basic budget plan will be discussed late in March.

Lithuania

Russia Hands Over Files of KGB Pensioners

LD0502112194 Vilnius Radio Vilnius in English 2000 GMT 4 Feb 94

[Text] On Thursday [3 February] Lithuanian officials took over the files of KGB old-age pensioners residing in Lithuania. Earlier, the files, kept in the former KGB headquarters in Vilnius, were under the charge of a special KGB people group, subordinate to the Russian Embassy in Vilnius. The Baltic News Service reports that a conflict broke out while taking over the documents, as the women in charge of the dossiers refused to give them to Lithuanian officials. The authorized Russian official was not present during the handover of the documents, and the Russian Embassy in Vilnius refused to comment on the incident. The files of the KGB pensioners will now be kept in the Lithuanian archives and will be accessible to both Lithuanian and Russian officials.

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